

ECONOMIC SANCTIONS ON REGIONAL SECURITY FRAMEWORK: THE
CASE OF PAKISTAN'S ENGAGEMENT WITH CHINA

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Abstract

Strategic Pakistan-China relationships have transformed into a critical global political node that disrupts the regional balance of power. The paper examines the economic alliance between Pakistan and China within the South Asian regional security framework. The historical origins of Pakistan-China relations during the 1950s have created a partnership that unites economic development with military support and diplomatic alignment. South Asia stands recognized for its historical relations, yet this area continues to evolve into a main battlefield where global powers conduct strategic competition. Pakistan and China intensified their bilateral relationship, particularly through CPEC, and this caused powerful transformations across the region. These unmentioned changes have resulted in diplomatic isolation and security adjustments, together with economic restrictions, although no official sanctions were enforced. The manuscript analyzes regional security effects in detail while embedding them within broader economic interdependence trends. Formal direct regional sanctions between nations remain rare, but the partnership generates indirect measures as well as tensions, along with economic restrictions that influence overall South Asian economic and security conditions.

Keywords: Economic Sanctions, Framework, Economic Diplomacy, Pakistan-China Relations, Global Sanctions Impact, Geopolitics

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INTRODUCTION

For the last few decades, the international community has noticed a dramatic transformation in the worldwide power equilibrium since China validated itself as a potent force shaping regional and worldwide political activities. China expands its global influence by utilizing its comprehensive ties with Pakistan, which include economic partnerships, together with military cooperation and geopolitical bonds. In the early 1950s, Pakistan was the 1st country to support the People's Republic of China in its early years of foundation. This led to the unwavering relationship between these two neighboring countries. Chinese government support to Pakistan shapes the South Asian structure of regional power mainly by a few main aspects, which include but are not limited to Economic development, military support, and geopolitical environment. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is one of the streamlined projects of the Chinese government, The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is considered a pathway for the Belt and Road Initiative, which acts as the economic foundation for both countries through creating industrial and infrastructural relationships. This project is extremely important and helpful for both countries, as it allows China to get access to the sea trade routes, enabling China to develop its goal for universal access while Pakistan becomes a global connectivity geographic place.

OBJECTIVES

This paper gives a deep insight into diplomatic and political relationships to acknowledge their tight impact on the safety measures associated with economic and political affiliation in South Asia. This paper highlights the diplomatic relationship between China and Pakistan from the early 1950s to the current era. The regional stability in South Asia is deeply rooted in the economic, military, and geopolitical developments of the South Asian Countries. Pakistan and China's political and economic initiatives are playing an important role in regional stability.

The study evaluates the major effect of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) on South Asian security structures and evolving power dynamics in the region. The study evaluates regional changes regarding strategic positional alignment and economic market competition through analysis of CPEC-driven economic infrastructure development projects.

The paper examines the economic limitations that result from Pakistan-China diplomatic relations as their partnership produces both new business prospects and difficulties for nearby economic systems. The study investigates how Pakistan-China partnership enhancements impact regional economic sectors and specifically targets states that confront Chinese growth within the region.

This study analyzes the key role that Pakistan-China economic alliances play in stabilizing the region by examining their future impacts on trade and infrastructure development and regional partnership collaboration. The research examines the role economic relations play in achieving regional economic integration while promoting stability in the area.

METHODOLOGY/LITERATURE REVIEW

The deep, multi-faceted connection between China and Pakistan drives academic researchers and policymakers, and analysts to conduct extensive examinations of Beijing's strategic goals in Pakistan because this powerful relationship shapes regional policies and impacts academic perspectives on worldwide geopolitics. An increasing number of scholars have conducted extensive research into elements of their partnership and how this

collaboration impacts both South Asian and wider geopolitical regions. Academic research tracks China-Pakistan diplomatic and economic partnership alongside their military cooperation from the 1950s through contemporary global political modifications.

The geopolitical rise of China in Pakistan produces strategic impacts affecting their bilateral partnership and the complete defense picture in South Asia. The experts are keeping a keen eye on the relationship of the countries to analyze its impact on neighboring countries like Iran, India, Sri Lanka, and Afghanistan. They are now checking on the response of the neighboring South Asian countries to the recent growing influence of China in Pakistan and its impact on the regional security framework.

HISTORICAL RELATIONS

The geography of both countries, along with the mutual economic, political, and security interests, has brought these two countries very close and established a very strong strategic and political relationship.

The paper discusses the significant outcomes of the prior scholarly publications in detail about the understanding of the historical China-Pakistan relationship. The insightful communications and understanding of both countries for mutual interest and security enabled them to establish a strong diplomatic relationship in the early 1950s. In 1963, the Sino-Pak Treaty Agreement created a strong relationship between them to sort out the border and territorial tensions with mutual arrangements. The treaty bound both countries to settle the territorial boundaries and work together to establish a strong military and political relationship in the future. Pakistan has gone through two major wars with India in 1965 and 1971. In all those bad times for Pakistan, China has provided strong strategic and military assistance to Pakistan, which has deepened the diplomatic alliance between both nations.

In the last 25 years, China and Pakistan have given their bilateral relationship a boost by inaugurating joint multiple economic and military projects. The China Pakistan Economic Corridor under the Belt and Road initiative project of China in 2015 has indicated the fundamental and primary rise of economic relationship between both countries. China is enabling Pakistan to seek connectivity and economic development for Pakistan and this is becoming the core reason for the growing strategic alliance between them.

ECONOMIC DIMENSIONS

China started the CPEC project as its central initiative within the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

China established the framework in 2015 to push forward economic cooperation with Pakistan. CPEC drives a transformation of Pakistan's economy through better connections combined with industrial development and foreign investment attraction. Attracting foreign investment through CPEC, Pakistan will generate millions of employment opportunities as well as reduce poverty rates, and it will boost economic growth. The initiative will allow Pakistan to accomplish its sustainable development targets. This investment of USD 60 billion positions CPEC as a historical transformation for Pakistan and the surrounding region through its Kashgar-to-Gwadar Port connection. The development of CPEC presents opportunities for economic interdependence as well as cooperative development, which may transition areas of zero-sum geopolitics into a new system.

Academics worldwide focus on evaluating China's strategic role in Pakistan because the partnership holds vital geostrategic implications for the entire region. China has

strengthened its economic involvement and military cooperation with Pakistan through an increasing relationship.

Profound implications for regional power dynamics and security arrangements. Zhang and Ali (2020) maintain that China gains enhanced regional influence by using its strategic investments in Pakistan, especially through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), to confront India's regional supremacy. The regional and geopolitical significance of China's expanding presence in Pakistan affects the entire Indo-Pacific area and worldwide power dynamics, according to Malik (2018).

Security relations between China-Pakistan develop increasingly complexly while impacting the security relationships between these nations and India and Afghanistan. Siddiqui and Chen (2018) explain that Chinese backing for Pakistan creates more diplomatic friction with India, which leads to unstable conditions across the region. China's economic development within Pakistan influences how the country handles neighboring Afghanistan since Beijing wants to safeguard its business stakes and stop extremist groups from spreading.

ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AND REGIONAL SECURITY: IMPLICATIONS OF PAKISTAN-CHINA ENGAGEMENT INDIA

The progressive strategic alliance between China and Pakistan generates economic and security problems throughout the area, which deeply affect India. From an Indian point of view, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) operates as both an economic initiative and a geopolitical instrument, which violates Indian sovereignty because it moves through regions that India claims in Jammu and Kashmir. The investment initiatives between China and Pakistan have caused India to view these actions as threatening its national sovereignty and neighborhood power. Economic pressures resulting from this development have made India raise its competitive edge through enhanced bilateral commercial and defensive relations with key partners, the United States and Japan. The country takes these defensive measures to counter the potential economic and strategic edges its neighbors create against India.

India's current position leads the country to steer away from large-scale regional cooperative projects alongside Pakistan and China, thus driving South Asian economic integration into separate domains.

AFGHANISTAN

The political turbulence and conflicts within Afghanistan led its government to see Chinese investments in Pakistan as disruptive elements that harm both Afghanistan's economy and security situation. The China-Pakistan engagement increases Afghanistan's economic challenges because it prevents Afghanistan from becoming a member of expanded regional infrastructure and trade systems, according to Mahmood and Hussain (2020). Afghanistan finds it harder to achieve economic stability as well as regional economic integration due to this discriminatory situation.

A key concern arises from the deep economic ties between China and Pakistan, since they might theoretically generate conflicts in Afghanistan. The priority of Pakistan on its China partnership creates Afghan security experts who fear diminished focus on border insurgencies and domestic conflicts, which Afghanistan needs for sustainable development and economic stability.

IRAN

Iran adopts a strategic perspective to maximize economic opportunities while maintaining security considerations in the Pakistan-China partnership. The China-Pakistan partnership presents economic benefits to Iran, which especially focuses on developing the energy sector. According to Ali and Khan (2021), Iran strives to position itself as a center for trade and energy operations, which establishes China's access to Pakistan and other countries in the region.

The economic prospects of Iran are in conflict with the possible negative impacts that result from forming this partnership. Foreign sanctions imposed by Washington restrict Iran from integrating fully into China-Pakistan joint initiatives because of regional security considerations. The sanctions restrict Iran's regional economic ties because they force the country to handle its partnerships as well as defend its position of power in the region.

GLOBAL ACTORS

Global powers such as the United States and Russia closely monitor economic restrictions that result from Pakistan-China joint operations. Pakistan's extensive integration with China makes the United States perceive this connection as a threat to power stability across South Asia. US-imposed restrictions to prevent Chinese progress on CPEC projects while blocking Pakistan's plans for economic expansion. Many nations lose their ability to collaborate effectively, so they start moving in separate directions.

Russia deliberately structures its economic strategy to exploit opportunities from international trade restrictions. Thanks to these security projects, Russia gains influence in the region without get into conflict with countries like the United States and Europe. Such efforts point to the rifts and tension caused by the China-Pakistan alliance in the Asian region.

RECOMMENDATIONS

FOR REGIONAL STAKEHOLDERS

REASSESS AND ADAPT SANCTIONS FRAMEWORKS

It is important for strong nations, like the USA, to assess their current policies on sanctions against growing regional alliances near their edges. Exemptions should be permitted for certain humanitarian projects in CPEC so that different regions' economies can develop together and cooperation between nations improved.

ENCOURAGE REGIONAL STABILITY THROUGH INVESTMENTS

United with their partner countries, the U.S. and Russia should aim to boost South Asia's economy and build up its defenses. Spending on vital infrastructure and advanced energy technology allows Afghanistan to control any risks linked to Pakistan-China development projects.

PROMOTE MULTILATERAL SECURITY COLLABORATIONS

The alliance serves to protect the region from trouble caused by economic activities between China and Pakistan. Shared action should be given to supporting combat against insurgencies and improving cybersecurity by forming shared intelligence with similar nations.

FACILITATE NEUTRAL MEDIATION PLATFORMS

The United Nations should establish ways of resolving conflicts that arise from Pakistan's partnership with China. These platforms focus on ensuring both the economy and national boundaries of each country involved are safeguarded.

FOR THE CHINA-PAKISTAN PARTNERSHIP

ADOPT TRANSPARENT ECONOMIC POLICIES

Both China and Pakistan ought to make all their joint CPEC activities and the financial benefits they bring to neighboring countries clear to everyone. Open rules on infrastructure and trade encourage trust and cooperation among countries in Asia.

INTEGRATE NEIGHBORING ECONOMIES

Extending the CPEC should focus on creating similar infrastructure and trade facilities among bordering countries. If China and Pakistan work with Afghanistan and open borders with India, it will allow the countries to cooperate and gain benefits.

COMMIT TO REGIONAL SECURITY COLLABORATION

Security issues of adjacent countries should be addressed through the joint framework that countries agree on. The projects are aided by cutting regional piracy and ensuring stability by encouraging security cooperation among China, Pakistan and their partners Afghanistan and Iran to support South Asia's economic union.

FINAL NOTE

Keeping Pakistan and China balanced through productive cooperation is the best way to reduce the economic sanctions and rising tensions that stem from their closer partnership. Each nation values open dialogues and mutual understanding, as these factors help build relationships they can rely on to solve problems that influence both countries and the region. This way, China and Pakistan can successfully face geopolitical issues without getting into fights or economic penalties because of their strong relationship. If peace and security along with prosperity are to be promoted, regional platforms should bring together states and organizations from the area, as well as those from abroad. Various groups involved in Pakistan-China relations set up a structure to ensure lasting peace across the region. As a result of these frameworks, policymakers can now connect diverse opinions, leading to ineffective economic embargoes since the additional help in forming policies is now available. By working together across nations, countries can achieve lasting peace through forming harmonious arrangements that replace the competitive relations focused on building and maintaining regional security and economic growth. With help from shared projects in infrastructure and trade services, combined with strong regional links across the region, East Asia enjoys greater economic benefit. As a result, countries are able to avoid measures such as economic sanctions from other nations and build stronger economic links with their neighbors.

CONCLUSION

Thanks to its relationship with China, Pakistan has greatly shifted the economy in South Asia, yet that has increased instability in the region. Thanks to CPEC, India is unsure about its independence, Afghanistan is considering participating more in markets, and Iran is gaining increased international control over the economy. One can see the complexity of the region's politics from the way international powers address their discussions between Russia and the United States. The cooperation and discussion among countries that are involved in the region support the improvement of projects and address their conflicts. The foundation of mutual trust and global unity comes from multilateral trade, global security plans, and the unification of economic standards for partners. For stability to be achieved in South Asia, countries worldwide and global institutions need to collaborate and limit economic separation among nations. To ensure South Asia develops sustainably, there should be no imbalance between national interests among its countries. Because of CPEC,

India is worried about losing its independence, and Afghanistan finds it difficult to imagine any trade route to the region, whereas the international community is granted authority to monitor Iran's economy. Other countries involved in this part of the world reflect its diversity by taking part in negotiations with both the United States and Russia. Engaging in open talks with the countries concerned, in addition to implementing regional initiatives, will help resolve the current contentions. The primary key to preventing global decay is for nations to join trade agreements, address security issues, and provide equal chances for economic growth to their members. South Asia's stability can be secured only when everyone involved joins forces and outside measures are put in place to curb economic losses and ease national tensions between states. The region should focus on balanced interests to ensure development remains steady everywhere in South Asia.

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