

Dr. Zahir Shah¹, Amjad Ali², Dr. Jamal Shah³, Sami Ullah⁴**Abstract**

The most important development the world has witnessed over the last few decades has been the spectacular rise of China as a new world power. China's rising significance is multiplied by owing to certain facts such as its economic success, strong military, soft power leverage, revolutionary uncompromised system, visionary leadership and long term economic planning. Nonetheless, Chinese rapid economic growth has accelerated tension since South China Sea and Taiwan continues to haunt the regional stability. Likewise, China's territorial dispute with India following minor skirmishes in past has altered China's Foreign Policy tilt in favor of other regional actors. This study undertakes China as a rising power and its geo-economics and geo-strategic implications for the region; since it has been argued by some scholars that such rising is not devoid of security risks for the region. The region stability has remained to global power conflict between China and the US, which in no way seems to bring a thaw between the two ahead in the future. The methodology undertaken for this study is qualitative, descriptive and analytical, which is based on secondary sources. Long before, China was deemed as a regional actor, now it has placed itself in the epicenter of global system- which is from realist perspective driven by power- politics. Apart from economic emergence, China also builds resistance capabilities to the US Asia-Pivot policy and caters her influence in region.

Keywords: China, Taiwan, India, Region, Strategic, Indian Ocean, South China Sea, Afghanistan

1. Introduction

People's Republic of China's economic and political models have gone through many transitioning periods moving from a feudalism-chain economy to a state-controlled economic dispensation; moreover, its political model faced many upheavals from kingship to communism. Ideologically, Chinese people adhered to the teaching of Confucius –and from him China indoctrinated the concept of {Panchayat} five principle of peaceful co-existence in its neighboring Foreign policy. Amidst civil war and dispute with Taiwan, China's topography continues to heighten the security dynamics in the region since long ago. (Mahapatra, 2016). From realist standpoint in world politics, China's ascension into global economic and political system is likely to be achieved in the first three decades of the twenty-first century. The integration of China into the global economy has brought one-fifth of the world's population into the global trading network, resulting in tremendous global commerce and conceivable trading (Mahapatra, 2016). In the twenty-first century, disagreements ranks in the scholar echelon about China's power status which has always been subject to rigorous debate in the global community. For example, one author at Russia's Science Academy asserted that China "had long ago reaped the ultimate concern among the world community." Nevertheless, it has yet to make its way to a superpower status. Keeping in view the assertion of some scholars, China's relative strength had exceeded that of Japan in 1998 placing itself second; however, China has yet to achieve the status of a global power (Xuetong, 2006). Many in China have alleged that the US has clandestine plan of using Washington dominated international financial and human right institutions to stave off Beijing from achieving its "rightful place", believing that the US's utmost strategic goal was global supremacy and that, viewing Beijing as a capable threat to the US led- world order., the Washington would never wish to see China rise as a peer competitor (Zhao, 1999). Before World War II, a multipolar world order prevailed having few countries enjoy monopoly with regard to power such as the US, the former USSR, England, France, Germany, Italy, and Japan. Similarly from economic perspective, a multipolar economic system driven by three prominent global power giants—the US, EU, and Japan—and two emerging economies—China and India—happened to be in the 1990s directly link to the fall of the USSR and communist regimes (Liping, 2009). Since the middle of the 1980s, China has independently pursued a pacifist foreign policy course thereby, asserting China's soft power leverage more vigorously and stringently over other countries. It will not only benefit China's long-term social, economic and political interests but it will also help in achieving world peace through its five principles of peaceful co-existence based on independence, peace, mutual respect and cooperation. China prefers to accomplish its trans-border objectives peacefully through diplomatic means rather than employing military tactics to disrupt mutual harmony. With respect to freedom, China devises its global strategy keeping in view the concern of larger public groups and multitude of nations in the world. Mutual respect demonstrates that China would engage in Foreign affairs with different nations on the basis of mutual respect, and might want to see worldwide political, security and peace treaties in view of shared regard between the relevant parties. China reiterated time and again that it would establish relationships with other countries premised on the 'Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence, including the United States (Liping, 2009). As India and China are the two rising monsters of Asia, once they turn out to be strong, will altogether affect the security dynamic in the region. As of now, their interests still seem collided with whereas each trying to subdue the other by maintaining the position of ascendancy (Guihong, 2005).

The World Bank report examined, Beijing's development ratios have outweighed those of the U.S. and any residing Western nations for over 10 years. David Shambaugh, and other Chinese political pundit noted that over the last seven years Beijing's defense spending has increased manifold and not having only unfolded the western worry but also changed the western-style diplomacy core concept over the development (Khan, 2020). As of march 2024, China's 14th National People's Congress disclosed its defense spending with 7.2% hike despite staggering economic growth. Beijing's emergence owes to a number of factors like Deng Xiaoping reform, free business worldwide and industrial development. Retrospectively, In Mao's time, Hong Kong gave around 33% of China's unfamiliar cash. Without Hong Kong, China could not have possibly had the option to import as much innovation. When cold war ended up, Deng Xiaoping's prioritize Hong Kong as a source of development for modernization of People's Republic of China. Deng utilized Hong Kong to acquire significantly more admittance to unfamiliar cash, to bring in to its own country a large number of things including innovation, and to use its skillful workforce, similar to

¹ Professor of Political Science Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan, Pakistan, zahirshah@awkum.edu.pk

² Student of BS Political Science at Government Post Graduate College, Mardan, KP, Pakistan, amjad.91092@gmail.com

³ Associate Professor of Political Science at Government Post Graduate College, Mardan, KP, Pakistan, jamalkhattana@gmail.com

⁴ Student of BS Political Science at Government Post Graduate College, Mardan, KP, Pakistan

the board experts. Similarly, Taiwan was crucial regarding capital ventures, yet more significantly over the long haul was its innovation move, above all else in the semiconductor business. As per 2023 report issued by ministry of economic affairs Taiwan, china largest trading partner was Taiwan and the trade between the two reached over \$166 billion. Hong Kong and Taiwanese financial backers were additionally one of the vital purposes behind quick development of the Chinese areas of Jiangsu, Fujian, and Guangdong. The Chinese initiative was exceptionally quick to modernize its economy. From one viewpoint, for protective reasons, they needed to ensure the country defense and their sovereignty not being attacked by any foreign troops as it was quite often in the past. Again, for hostile reasons, the Communist Party motto needs to reestablish its status as an extraordinary power, continuing its purported grand tradition. Because of this multitude of variables, China has achieved unprecedented in entrepreneur modernization what it would take more than 100 years in other states. China is presently the second biggest economy on the planet. Yet, it is inconsistent. From one viewpoint, bunches of multinationals are liable for its development either straightforwardly or through subcontracting to Taiwanese and Chinese firms (Shambaugh, 2003). The main objectives of the study are to know the causes of China's rising as economic and military power and to discuss its geo-economic and geo-strategic implications for the region. The research significance lies in the fact that it has limited the domain of China rising as a regional actor. China has been in competition with US since its economy started growing ; however, the emerging economy of India with the support of US created sever challenges for China in the 21st century. The research also examines the role of Pakistan as regional actor vis-à-vis India hostility towards Pakistan as well as China.

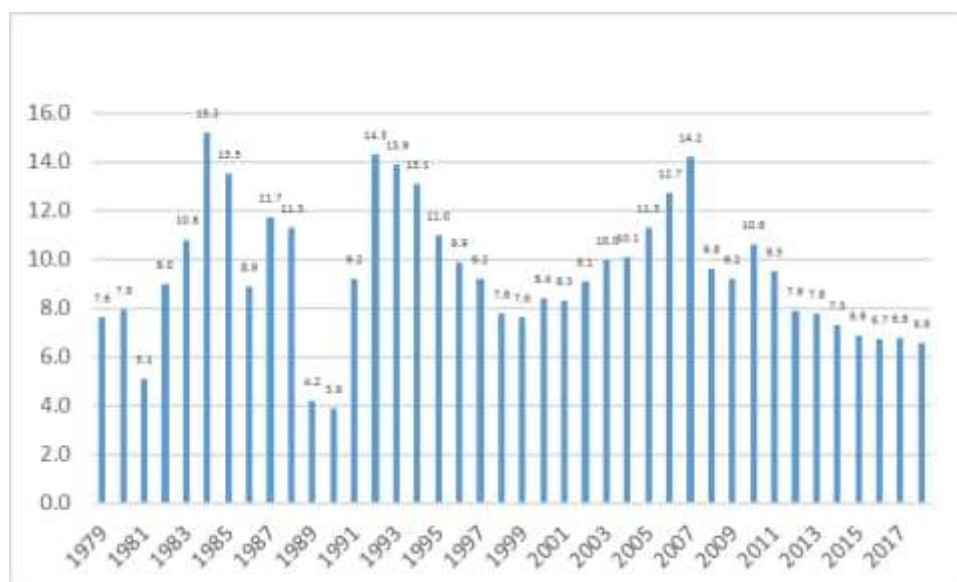
2. What are the factors of China's rising?

Here, the research will look into some of the factors- economic, political, and cultural and military- that have led to the emergence of China as a potential global power.

Yunling, (2016) is of the opinion that since 1967, when China began to liberalize its economy, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has grown by an average of over 10% per annum, and has pulled out almost eight hundred million people out of poverty. Over the same time span, there have always been significant improvements in access to health, education and other services. According to Brooking Institute 2021, which claimed that the next coming top four economic markets in 2030 would be china, India, Indonesia and the US, three of them residing in Asia? Similarly, Sutter (2005) is of the opinion that there is huge scope for improvement of Chinese framework. China has worked to acquire the excellence in the creation of steel and other metals, concrete, ships, vehicles, electronic merchandise, and other materials. It is a significant purchaser of worldwide unrefined components. In Asia, China largest trading partners include its key neighbor such as South Korea, Japan, Taiwan, and a number of ASEAN countries. John J. Mearsheimer, an international relations expert argues that china such spectacular rise is likely to pose a huge threat to western hegemony, which it exercise over Asia. . The main causes that contribute to the rise of China as an emerging superpower are as follow:

3. Economic Factors

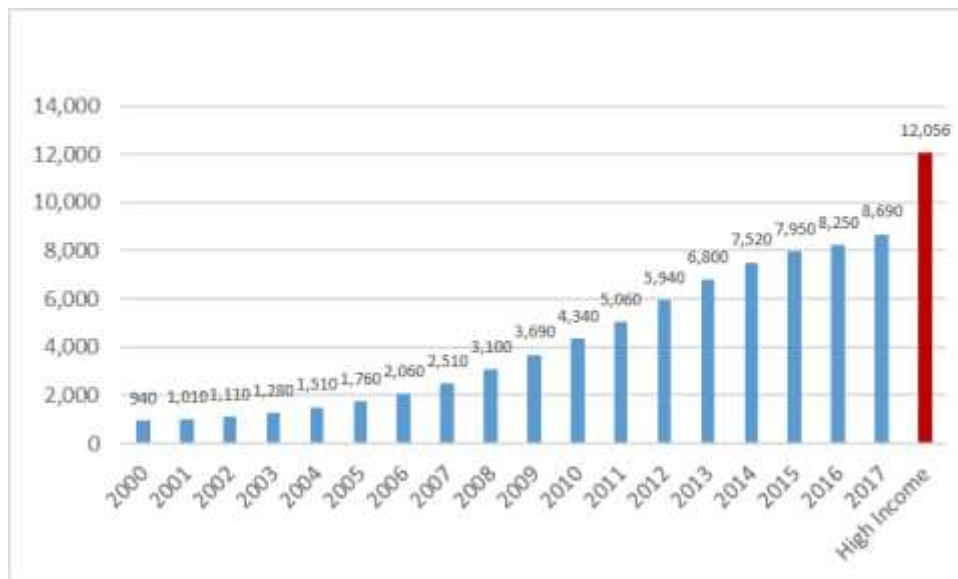
China's economy has expanded far more quickly than it did before the adoption of economic reforms, and has tried to avoided significant economic upheavals. As of today, china continues to keep at pace with rest of the world and recorded second highest GDP in the world. China's annual real GDP averaged 9.5 percent from 1979 to 2018. The below given figure explain China's annual GDP growth.



Source: IMF, World Economic Outlook Database

As a result, China has been able to effectively double the size of its economy every eight years on average (Robertson & Sin, 2017) An IMF study team recently looked into the factors contributing to China's growth in an effort to understand why that country has performed so well. They came to an unexpected result. The team report figure out that china's growth outnumbered the regional countries by initiating long-term economic planning in many sectors including financial sector, state-owned enterprises and regulatory framework. Moreover, the number of Chinese workers and capital accumulation were proved to be significant for its economic boom- which was primarily fueled by a quick, sustained increase in productivity or higher worker efficiency. Realist argues that Economic developments elevated the country's productivity and gave greater resources to support additional economic investment (Robertson & Sin, 2017).

The World Bank uses a per capita gross national income (GNI) approach to classify the economic development levels of nations. According to the World Bank, China's economy went from being poor to low-middle income in 1997, and then from there to upper middle income in 2010. In 2017, per capita GNI of Beijing was 38.7 percent, below the mark required to qualify as a high-income economy. By 2025, according to Chinese government estimates, China will reach the high income level. The expansion of innovation growth in China, according to skeptics, will be difficult to achieve, especially if it is primarily state-driven and introduces additional limits on investment from outside (t Robertson & Sin, 2017). Figure. 2 explain China measurement of per capita GNI (gross national income) from 2000 to 2017.



Source: World Bank

In recent years, China's quick progress has caught the sight of the entire world. The Chinese leadership has engaged with the global world at all forums to make them believe in peaceful rising of China. China follows a firm course of strategic constraints. Beijing has inked numerous economic, political and strategic agreements with several neighboring nations regarding the demarcation of its disputed land boundary, even though it continues to indicate its territorial and economic assertions in the South and East China Seas. The Chinese leadership has repeatedly emphasized that using military force to settle differences is frivolous and thus it no way ensured peace and cooperation in the region rather than creating chaos and mayhem. A Chinese war expert Sun Tzu in his book 'the art of war' quoted as saying: *the supreme art of war is to subdue the enemy without fighting*. China role is essential to the G-20's efforts to create the new world order. Similarly, at G-7 countries conglomeration, china has proven its potential as anticipated economic hegemon since its contribution to global economy could alone stand higher than the combined share of G-7 countries as reported by Bloomberg in May 2024. It has also enrolled in the World Trade Organization (WTO) in an effort to establish itself as a major participant in the global economy. According to a recent report of Global Economic Outlook, China alone accounts for more than a third of the world's economic growth. Scholars argue that Politics and security are always impacted by economic growth success. The West is shocked by China's phenomenal economic growth that the country would soon surpass the United States as power competitor (Iqbal, 2014).

The total Chines exports amounted to US \$1.71 trillion as of fiscal year 2024. Exports, undoubtedly, contribute greatly to the country's economic success. Furthermore, the magnitude of these exports is only possible with the support of a sizable workforce. Being the second most populous country on the earth planet, China has enormous amount of skillful workforce capable of driving the export-led industry of the country. Cheap labor force and the economic empowerment of women are the two main driving forces that contribute to China's becoming the world top exporter. (Khan, 2020).

The living standard of Hundreds of millions of Chinese citizens has improved owing to country's unprecedented economic development. The country is on the track to end absolute deprivation by the year 2020 and more than 850 million people have been pulled out of poverty. China is also unlocking a new path for the promotion of the world economy. The Belt and Road Initiative, a vast global infrastructure project, has received a storm of finance that is helping to write the nation-building history of the country. The so-called new Silk Road wishes to organize global trade and enterprise connections by linking almost half of the world's population to one-fifth of the global GDP (Hameiri & Jones, 2016).

4. Political Factors

China is a socialist state governed by single party dictatorship named CPC. The hierarchical structure of CPC is very complex and suggests that PRC is controlled by single handedly and implying the features that of a totalitarian Government (Lawrence, 2010). China has strong centralized government run solely by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), the only political party in China. The Party has complete power and control over the nation. It has branches for the legislative, executive, judicial, military, administrative, and procurator functions. The highest state body, the National People's Congress (NPC), is in charge of the election and oversight of representatives to other government bodies as well as the constitution and fundamental legislation (Ikenberry, 2008).

Article 1 of the 1954 Constitution states on the nature of the state *The People's Republic of China is a people's democratic country headed by the working class and built on the alliance of workers and peasants* (Lardy & Nicholas, 2010). China's political and social structures have undergone through enormous transformation in the last century. A nation's foundation is predicated on a set of political ideals known as its "fundamental principles" (Lardy & Nicholas, 2010).

The reform of the Chinese bureaucratic structure taken by CPC was a crucial step which led to overhauling of the entire governance structure. Deng replaced the old electable with new comers as of around sixty five and seventy percent of mayors, chiefs, and administrators between 1982 and 1984, and argued that they are more knowledgeable group and have clear understanding of the future. These reshuffling contributed to the strong grassroots local ownership of reforms. With a framework that guarantees that only the best are promoted, the Chinese public service is currently regarded as the most competitive in the world (Morton, 2016).

China's economic success may be ascribed to socialism- a state-controlled system. Long before, Wu Ti [Emperor Wu] experimented with socialism by establishing national ownership of natural resources under the peasant's class. As result, it worked out for them. Hence, China's political dispensation has evolved in this way over a course of period facing number of challenges (Lardy & Nicholas, 2010).

The four pillars upon which the china power rest are the following: China's roughly 2.25 million-strong military; the People's Liberation Army (PLA); 1.5 million-strong paramilitary force, and the People's Armed Police 800,000. Chines people adhere to the Leninist's principles and frequently in due course they pursue those principles as a guiding force (Morton, 2016).

5. Cultural Factor

The cultural characteristics, the ancient Chinese civilization had bequeathed to its descendants, is still observed or can be felt in the form of shared culture or collectivism. Following the traditions and principle of Confucianism, china's cultural identity rests on the old traditions of ancient civilization, which were used to be submissiveness, hardworking and reverence. Chinese society and culture might be characterized as "collectivist." There are countless example which may seem to support the idea of Chinese cultural dual-face, one is its submissiveness and the other is barbarity very often inflicted on its own peoples. Nonetheless, in Chinese's culture the family unit comes first instead of the members individually. The children are supposed to learn ethical code or norms for example the kids are taught not to argue with their parents or other adults. If harmony exists at home, it is expected that the family as a whole will succeed. One prevalent practice in china and perhaps across the world, taking Geert Hofstедter's method of cultural variable comparison is a guiding principle which is based on five different dimensions: power distance, individualism vs. collectivism, masculinity against femininity, uncertainty avoidance, and long-term orientation (Almotairi, 2021).

A territory's economics and culture are intertwined, and thus creates a system of unique economic and cultural elements that make up an economic-cultural complex. This system of characteristics is kept constant by cultural inertia, while the dynamics of the system are driven by economic growth (Almotairi, 2021). Spiritual culture influences economic organization in three different ways: First, working relationships and production organizations are impacted by cultures, religion, habits, and communication norms. Second, the capacity to adopt and develop new technologies is influenced by both the level of social development and the creative power of the populace. Third, an industrial structure is influenced by spiritual culture (Almotairi, 2021).

China has made significant economic development over the past few decades, and their achievements are stunning. New hypotheses on the assistance of Chinese culture to economic success have emerged in tandem with this accomplishment. A growing view owes Confucianism significantly to these accomplishments. The quick change in China's economy and society more lately has been in line with this idea. Now, focus is on the unique benefits of Confucianism, such as the shared cultural heritage of China and most of East Asia (Beeson & Li, 2016). There are still a number of codes that have been shown to be advantageous for economic growth. One of these is the way that Confucianist society promotes frugality and saving, which in turn helps investments flourish. Without surpluses that can boost the economy's productive potential, no economy can expand. Investment in physical infrastructure, such as roads, machine and industry is crucial for economic development (Beeson & Li, 2016). Another rule is that education is highly valued in Confucian philosophy. This encourages the growth of human resources in turn. The emphasis on work ethic is the final tenet of Confucianism. Work is a means to an end that should result in monetary achievement as a reward. Work entails being disciplined, being on time, being obedient, and being diligent. According to Confucianist theory, having a job is a virtue that may help anyone develop strong moral principles. Laziness leads to moral decay and unethical behavior (Beeson & Li, 2016).

Chinese development includes a social and cultural component. Mao Zedong started off "Cultural Revolution" (1966-19760) with aim of refining Chinese society from the evil forces of capitalism and other traditional elements. During such period, all the cultural norms, values and relics, those were not in line with the Maoist ideology, were destroyed, suppressed and demolished with the brutal force. The aftermath of such revolution ruined the Chinese culture and left the country culturally debilitated. Following Mao's catastrophic Cultural Revolution, everyone came to the conclusion that reforms were necessary to rejuvenate and replenish the Chinese culture. . The spark came in the form of Deng Xiaoping's developmental reforms where he acknowledged that it was the need of the hour to reinvigorate and revitalize Chinese culture as a part of his broader reforms. Since then, a common work ethics has been successfully maintained and fostered by people in positions of authority throughout China. This sort of moral code functions nicely together with the objective of the performance and growth (Almotairi, 2021).

6. Military Strength

In order to transform its military into a top-tier force within thirty years, the Chinese government is aiming to make it stronger, more effective and more technologically sophisticated. The People's Liberation Army (PLA), whose budget has increased dramatically over the past ten years, and having the world second largest spending has also exceeded the US's military in terms of strength. In term of dollars, Beijing, according to the 2024 budget report of the National People's Congress, is expected to spend \$231.4 billion on its military in the coming year. Stockholm international peace research institute has figured out that China possess 410 nuclear warheads and has also unearthed the China GDP ratio to military budget, -which is 1.6% of its GDP (Dennison, Mark & Dimon, 1996). The ongoing war of that time (1927–1949 civil wars) between two Chinese forces, one was Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and the other was the Nationalist Kuomintang forces, which gave rise to the birth of modern Chinese military. Chinese civilians were mobilized in massive numbers to form the guerrilla-style army, and the PLA essentially maintained this organizational structure to defend its borders in the decades that

followed the Gulf War and the Taiwan Strait Crises as well as the tension projected in the South China Sea. Chinese authorities recognized that their country lacked the technologies necessary to conduct a modern war and deter outside countries from interfering in the region after being astounded by the competence of American forces. Victor Gao, Vice President, Centre for China and Globalization, in Aljazeera English talk show with Mehdi Hassan, disclosed the fact that China would not hesitate in acquiring modern warfare unless its border are fully secured and dream of Mainland China is fulfilled (Dennison, Mark & Dimon, 1996).

In the middle of the 1980s, China's military policy experienced a significant shift. The People's Liberation Army (PLA) redirected its focus to the prospect of regional conflicts since the fear of a Soviet ground invasion had subsided. As a result, the PLA began to concentrate on a limited war plan. This plan was altered, nonetheless, as a result of the deterioration in ties with the West that followed the slaughter at Tiananmen Square. The Chinese leadership was significantly impacted by the Gulf War, and the war was extensively examined. As a result, a new defence tactic was developed that was predicated on deploying cutting-edge technology to combat modern warfare. The Gulf War has provided the Chinese with a wealth of knowledge. They have first grasped the importance of modern weaponry and electronic warfare. They have also discovered the value of powerful naval and aviation forces and that quick reaction and deployment are accurate indicators of overall capabilities. They have at last come to the realization that logistical assistance is just as crucial as actual fighting capabilities. The doctrine of the PLA has been significantly impacted by these lessons acquired. Firstly, the significance of ground forces has been diminished in order to place more emphasis on the navy and air force. Second, the idea that strength in numbers can win the assault and that manpower is superior to machine power has been abandoned. Last, but not least, there is less of a dependence on the civilian population to form the ranks of the army than there was when the idea of a protracted people's war was popular. China has adopted a doctrinal strategy to build a modern, efficient military with the potential to project force in response to the lessons it learnt during the Gulf War (Robertson & Sin, 2017).

For more than 20 years, Beijing has accumulated the military capabilities that are thought to be a necessary component of a country's global domination. China has taken a considerably more aggressive policy than in the past since the late 2000s. China is aiming to create its own norms and model of the relationship between great countries. Since 1990, China has increased its defence spending by over 10% annually. After the US, it has the second-largest defence expenditure, which is larger than the combined budgets of Japan, India, and South Korea (Almotairi, 2021).

China has long been started altering Asia's military power dynamics. Its military reforms call for caution rather than alarm because its military modernization has made enormous progress. China's military modernization has produced a more antiquated frame of what the US Secretary of Defense refers to in the annual report of congress as "pockets of greatness" after 20 years of focused work (Almotairi, 2021).

7. Implications for the Regions

It is important to take into account the threats of geographic contiguity, when we assess China's prospective capacity to endanger regional security. China's potential to endanger security is essentially limited to the East Asian region (Morton, 2016). There are multiple questions arise in scholars minds regarding China's rise as regional hegemon. Whether emergence of China poses any threat to regional security if, yes then what kinds of security threats the region will likely to confront? In general, China does not pose a danger to its neighbors right now, with the exception of Taiwan and those parties having claims to the South China Sea's Spratly Islands. China is able to threaten its neighbors in the area, especially with its military might and strong naval power. Due to China's existing capabilities, the threat it poses is constrained. It is further constrained by the fact that China doesn't seem to have any hostile intentions against its neighbors (Morton, 2016). However, China's emergence has certainly some implications for the following regional actors.

Taiwan: Of all the China's neighbors, Taiwan, an island nation with a democratically elected government and a population of 23 million, is the one that is most gravely threatened (Taifa, 1997). Following the civil war of 1949, China split into two regions: Mainland China or People Republic of China (PRC); and Taiwan also called Republic of China (ROC). The PRC declares that Taiwan will one day "unify" with the mainland and sees the island as a renegade province. Political leaders in Taiwan hold contrasting opinions about the status of the island and its ties to the mainland. According to Beijing, Taiwan is a component of the "one China" mainland policy. It follows the concept of "One-China," according to which the PRC is the only legitimate government in China, and it wants Taiwan to eventually "unify" with the rest of the country and that "the two sides of the strait belong to one China and will work together to pursue national reunification" (Taifa, 1997). Some in Beijing have stated that they will make any sacrifices to bring Taiwan under communist control. Leading Chinese military strategist cautioned in December 2003 that worries over China's economic progress would not influence Beijing's choice to attack Taiwan, and that Beijing was not worried that foreign investment may decline or that an assault would cause it to regress by several years (Robertson & Sin, 2017).

Taiwan is seen by China as a separatist province that it has promised to reclaim, if necessary, through force, such claims were made by China military exert. The authorities of Taiwan, however, assert that their country is plainly much more than a province and that it is a sovereign state. Beijing's anticipated costs of a confrontation in the Taiwan Strait are influenced by a variety of variables, not just only US blank cheque support or weaponry supplies to Taiwan. Even significant changes in the cross-Strait balance of power won't be unstable if other variables make Chinese officials believe that the costs of war are prohibitive. Xi Jinping has attempted to isolate the Taiwan problem from US-China ties in order to lessen US power on this issue in the bilateral relationship as China has become more adept at controlling the situation on its Asian borders (Huang, 2016).

Washington increased its assistance for Taiwan on the political, economic, and even military levels, and reaffirmed that all of these actions were within the purview of its one-China policy. For stronger U.S.-China ties, it refused to compromise Taiwan. The PRC must provide a new approach to settling the core cross-Strait problem that is more sensitive to Taiwanese ambitions and concerns if it wants to advance its objective of unification without force or violence. Soon after ties between the United States and China began to improve, the phrase "one nation, two systems" was coined. It hasn't changed since then (Huang, 2016).

North Korea: When the UN Security Council approved resolution number 1874 on May 25, 2009, condemning North Korea's second nuclear test, China emphasized the need for a peaceful settlement to the nuclear situation through "engagement and diplomacy" (Li, 2004). The old alliance connection and the more recent strategic cooperative partnership make up the dual relationship that governs ties between China and North Korea. While the conventional alliance connection is still viable, a strategic cooperative partnership has also developed. Having inked different treaties such as The Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance in July 1961, China and North Korea further solidify the friendship bond. The treaty encompasses a standard alliance relationship in which one party agrees to use all available military and other resources to defend the other against any external assault. The partnership reflects the "buffer zone mindset" of Chinese officials (Li, 2004). The two North Korean nuclear crises saw China's actions oscillate between those driven by conventional alliance relationships and those driven by cooperative strategic relationships. Chinese authorities began to look differently about North Korea after diplomatic relations between China and South Korea were normalized in August 1992 (Li, 2004).

Beijing continues to oppose US proposals to apply additional economic pressure on North Korea, out of concern that doing so may diminish China's influence over the DPRK and promote far more irresponsible behavior (Morton, 2016). China seeks to maintain strategic ties with Korea and also implicitly hinted to resolve latter nuclear conundrum by diplomatic means (Morton, 2016).

Even in 2017, when Beijing was putting sanctions on Pyongyang and the chances of a US-North Korea escalation were high, China blatantly rebuffed that it would defend North Korea provided that the United States and South Korea invaded it first. This is consistent with the Chinese government's pledge to support North Korea only in the event of an armed assault under Article II of the Treaty. It is also important to note that Beijing's only official commitment to security is its relationship with North Korea. The power dynamics on the Korean peninsula appear to be following a well-known pattern as a result of the restored China-North Korea alliance. China will use its relationship with North Korea as leverage to stop Pyongyang from starting a big conflict while threatening to interfere and restraining the US from exercising its hegemonic aspirations (John, 1995).

India: The prevalent world order seems likely to be tested by the rising of China and India as new emerging world powers. Since the two power rivalry has started unfolding, it will inevitably alter the global world order, which will have significant consequences for them, the United States, and the rest of the globe. China and India both had tried to maintain peace in Asia-Pacific; nonetheless, the region still continued to naval competition. Importantly, China views the United States as a major stumbling block in pursuit of its regional aims and is wary of American containment efforts, while India desires a robust American presence in the area to protect against potential Chinese excesses through several security dialogues such as COMCASA, LEMOA and BECA (Chari & Raghavan, 2015). While China and India share an abstract understanding of ideas like state sovereignty and humanitarian intervention, they disagree on how serious they believe the dangers to the international order are and how much they care about their own security. China is highly aware of the power India wields over Tibet's destiny as a Chinese province and harbors great fears about American incursions into its sovereignty (Chari & Raghavan, 2015).

Although there are genuine conflicts between China and India, they will ultimately turn out to be abnormal. That is supported by three solid arguments: historical, economic, and strategic. Before the border incursions of 1962, China and India had open borders; yet, for the 2,000 years prior to that time, they had close economic, religious, and cultural relations. By the second century BC, the towns of Xi'an in China and Pataliputra in India were connected by the southern branch of the Silk Road. The expansion of the Chinese and Indian civilizations was significantly influenced by trade along the Tea and Horse Road, as it was known to the Chinese (Thayer, 2011).

Because of the difficult, hilly terrain that makes large-scale army deployments impractical, Chinese analysts frequently discount the possibility that a conventional border confrontation with India might lead to nuclear escalation. They anticipate that if there was a conflict, the possible fatalities and damage would be kept to a minimum to prevent nuclear threats from materializing. But these dangers might be escalating. Following the clash in the Galwan Valley in June 2020, which saw casualties on both sides, both nations increased their military presence along the border. A serious, high-intensity conventional battle can no longer be ruled out since both sides now have sophisticated weapons and stronger transportation infrastructure. Both nations also possess dual-use (conventional or nuclear) weaponry that could play a role in a border dispute and that could unintentionally spark a lethal overreaction (Chari, & Raghavan, 2015).

India also has apprehension about CPEC, a forerunner project of Belt and Road Initiative, and views it as a potential security threat to Indian economic interests in the region. Narendra Modi, the Indian Prime Minister, in his visit to China in 2015 registered a vehement protest against CPEC with Chinese concerned authorities by claiming that CPEC passes through a disputed region in Kashmir, which according to Indian officials may harms Indian interests in the region. Furthermore, there are several confrontations between China and India along their extensive borders, which fuels unrest among the people of both nations. Even if the United States and China want to establish peace and stability in the area, Pakistan and India disagree with one another and are unwilling to resolve their differences (Huang, Y. (2016).

China's growing influence in South Asia puts India's position as the region's economic and diplomatic power under jeopardy. However, this is hardly a straightforward tale of regional exodus. Due to its export-led economic strategy, China has become one of the region's leading exporters of products, especially to India, during the previous ten years. India is skeptical of China's military presence in the Indian Ocean littoral, which is why it is reluctant about the One Belt, One Road program. Neither side believes the other has conceded the other's territorial integrity (Morton, 2016).

Pakistan: Stephen Philip Cohen writes, *while history has been unkind to Pakistan, its geography has been its greatest benefit. It has a resource-rich area in the northwest, people rich in the northeast.* The twenty-first century's global politics seems likely to be dominated by the Asian monopoly as it is considered the place of crisis and opportunities because every time the economic market is shaken in Asia, its repercussions are felt by the global community. Moreover, in 2013 the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a component of China's Belt and Road Initiative, was established. China is one of Pakistan's top lenders, owning more than 27% of Pakistan's debt, thus the economic ties go beyond trade and CPEC (Huang, 2016). China's influence over Pakistan's economy has significantly expanded in recent years as a result of Beijing becoming Islamabad's largest creditor. China has provided Pakistan with financial and technical support for development of its road network,

increasing the north-south connection to increase the efficiency of carrying goods from Karachi to Gilgit-Baltistan (Huang, 2016). Beijing has been instrumental in assisting Pakistan develop its power industry, but it hasn't succeeded in pressuring Pakistan to overcome the problems that are preventing the sale of K-Electric to Shanghai Electric Power. In order to reduce the steadily rising cost of power, Pakistan has also enlisted Chinese investors to renegotiate the terms of power project contracts (Huang, 2016).

Although security considerations play a significant role in explaining China's interest in Pakistan, there are more reasons for China to deepen its relations with Pakistan. From security perspective, China has enormous apprehension taking the security apparatus of Pakistan. Amidst frequent attacks on Chinese civilians, the federal government of Pakistan has established a Special Security Division (SSD) of Pakistan Army to ensure the security and protect the Chinese nationals working on the project. The division comprises of 12000 troops headed by a Major General.

India is under the false notion that China and Pakistan are contriving to encircle it. In reality, Pakistan and China want India to be a peaceful neighbor and want it to take decisive action to settle its differences with them. India might have joined the BRI and contributed to the region's overall well-being and human development. Instead, a futile weapons race and unproven allegation casting upon one another are of no use, which has led to a significant strategic imbalance in South Asia. The Taliban's ascent in Afghanistan has also increased unease and uncertainty, adding to fuel flaming fire. This new power structure is also upsetting people beyond the border regions. In Afghanistan, there are fears of a new "Great Game." China and Pakistan concur that the situation in Afghanistan has to be handled carefully. There already exists too much volatility in the area hindering the development of CPEC and BRI.

The study shows that

- China's success of the last decades is based on the Communist Party of China (CPC) abandoning central planning and introducing economic reforms as moderating- capitalism instead. The best strategy to consolidate the power of the Chinese Communist Party was to introduce the market economy in continental China, following the examples of Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore.
- China's long term economic planning, higher productivity and higher worker efficiency have resulted in boasting the economic growth of China.
- The Chinese military has been transformed into a force capable of engaging in combats on land, at sea, in the air, in space, and online. Moreover, China's defense industry, which has established itself as a major player globally, is rapidly supplying it with cutting-edge and cyber equipment to cater the challenging security threats of the twenty-first century.
- China's rising influence in the South Asian region has dashed the Indian hopes of economic, military and diplomatic power in the ground.
- Beijing's rise to the status of a new global power has also exacerbated tensions among the comity of nations. Early foretells that China's entry into the world economy would result in domestic liberalization and international modernizations have proven too pessimistic.
- Concerns are put forward by Chinese rise to be an identical power to the US because "realist" theories of international relations predict that such a development will result in a breakdown of globalization as nations turn away from economic directness in favor of economic nationalism; and
- China's rise has given way to more vocal expressions of great power aspirations and a more assertive international posture, particularly with regard to China's territorial disputes in the South China Sea.

8. Conclusion

To wrap it up, China's rising has given birth to speculation on one hand, but on the other hand it has a silver lining for the neighboring countries such as Pakistan, Afghanistan and North Korea. China's foreign policy believes in soft power projection instead of using hard coercive means; nevertheless, Taiwan has been subject to the latter approach throughout decades. Since the world has evolved to global power competition, China has not only increased its military spending but also expanded diplomatic leverages over the other nations in the forms of diplomatic breakthrough and mediation efforts. Similarly, China's economic emergence owes much to the account of its history and traditions. The five principles of peaceful coexistence in Confucianist ideology serve as guiding principles for Chinese foreign and diplomatic relations. However, the emergence of China is not without repercussions, as its rising has exacerbated tension in the region especially when it comes to territorial and border disputes with Taiwan and India on one hand, and its unwavering support to authoritarian regimes like that of North Korea on the other hand. Conversely, the rising of China has also lead to the overall socio-economic and human development of the region as manifested in case of Pakistan and Afghanistan.

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