

**CHINA'S EXPANDING GLOBAL INFLUENCE, DEVELOPING
WORLD, AND THE UNITED STATES' INTERESTS**

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Abstract

China is the world's second largest economy that is expected to be double the size of American's by 2030. With growing strength, China is exercising gigantic influence around the world. In Asia, Africa, Latin America and now in Europe, Beijing has become the major trading partner of numerous states. China has presented new concepts and implemented some unique principles differing to the preceding global powers that have helped increase its global influence. The developing world is becoming progressively China-centric, a process that is projected to prove irresistible. The US remains the global super-power. The global power status, however, is getting flat because of multi-polarization and strategic shift of power is happening from the US to Asia. The article is a qualitative attempt to underscore Chinese expanding influence as a re-emerging global power, role of developing world in the formation of its foreign policy and implications for the interests of US.

Keywords: *Global Power; Developing World; Foreign Policy; Soft Power; Influence*

1.1. INTRODUCTION

In the early the 21st century China's influence began to spread across the continent through more trade, outside investment and cross-border infrastructure development. China's investment is not limited to Southeast Asia. in Asia, countries from other regions such as South Asia and Central Asia have also received China's foreign direct (FDI) outflows. Its FDI in Africa amounted to US\$6.27 billion in 2005 (Men, 2011, p. 216).

China has become world's largest trading country having strong relations with African, Latin American and the Middle Eastern nations. In 2013, China decided to strengthen its stronger position in South Asian region. It assumed control over the upgrading and operational rights of Gwadar Port from Port of Singapore Authority (PSA). Geographical location of Gwadar port provides China a shortest route from the Persian Gulf, which fulfills 60% of China's oil demand (Chen, 2014). Chinese shipments of energy and goods takes sea travel time of 2-3 months and distanced about 14500 to 16000 km from Middle East and Africa to Shanghai Port which not only requires considerable time but charges duties and heavy taxes as well. Then the distance for Chinese exports and imports between Xinjiang and Shanghai is 4500 km. As compared, Gwadar port that is being considered in the supreme interest of Chinese economy, is situated at 2500 km from China, and operational whole year (Khan, p. 82). China believes in a harmonious world and firmly observes the principle of peace in its development that is a new chapter in the history of emerging powers. China's rise can be best described in the two words; peace and cooperation.

In 21st century, China opens to developed countries as well as to developing countries. In light of balance and shared advantage, China effectively leads broad worldwide collaboration to advance common development. As the biggest developing country on the planet and a permanent member of the United Nation Security Council (UNSC),

China is attempting steady endeavors for world peace and development to establish another peaceful, steady, reasonable and sane global political and economic order and have faith in that the new order should reflect the demand of true advancement, progress of times, common interests and aspiration of people of the world (Liu, 2008, p. 33) (Foreign Policy).

1.2. CHINA AND DEVELOPING WORLD

Here we can understand the importance of developing world in Chinese foreign policy. Developing nations provides foundation of Chinese policies in the whole world. Cooperation with developing countries is ascending in recent years which is different from the foreign policy of Jiang Zemin and Hu Jintao who focused strong relations with Washington. However, China's diplomacy in Africa and Latin Africa is not new. Chinese policy has been very consistent and un-neglecting in these regions since Mao.

It has taken many forms to engage the developing countries. It has embraced strategic relationship with key developing nations to highlight its global interest and to cultivate the security environment encouraging peaceful advancement of China and to make a harmonious universe, persevering peace and prosperity. It demonstrates that China has strengthened its relations with countries of two regions Africa and Latin America in political, economic and security terms (Guo, 2008, p. 23). China well-looked-after her interests such as energy, overseas markets, border challenges and promotion of multipolar world to engage developing world. These relationships are divided into two classifications of cooperative partner and strategic partner all together of significance.

Another new element in China's new diplomacy compared with the past is shift from bilateralism to gradually conscious use of multilateralism (Guo, 2008, p. 28). China is assuming leading part in advancing multilateralism around the globe. China proclaims the UN as the institution of great significance to protecting the national sovereignty, equality among nations and democratization of the global issues. It has joined several

multilateral forums all through the developing world, for example SCO, ASEAN, ASEAN+3, the China Arab Cooperation Forum, the China Africa Cooperation Forum to demonstrate the interests of developing world with good faith commitment. China serves as an observer in the Organization of American States in Latin America and SAARC as well (See Note, 1).

Beijing has increased foreign aid and assistance to developing nations. The scale of multilateral aid (that is a fundamental part of Beijing foreign aid) has expanded in these days and the types of these aids are being more and more varied (Zhou, 2017, p. 49). Multilateral aid by Chinese is visible at international organizations and regional agencies such as UN Agencies, the WB, African Development Bank and Asian Development Bank (Zhou, 2017, p. 59). The idea of Chinese aid is different from that of west.

While bilateral relations are still important. China is achieving the phase of industrialization, urbanization, and infrastructure development that is the most commodity intensive. To meet its needs, China has explicitly accentuated relations with developing countries. China is a big net importer of oil, iron ore, lead, copper, zinc and nickel. It is now the world's top purchaser of palm oil, copper, aluminum, lead, tin, nickel, iron ore, zinc, coal, rice, wheat, rubber and cotton. It is the world's top producer and consumer of steel. Producing 1/3 (33%) of global steel, its consumption of metals has increased 17 percent per year. Its metal utilization has risen in the past decade from 10% to 25%. Since 1999, China has consumed 2/3 of the base metals of global yield. Since 2002, it accounts for 50 % of global growth of steel, aluminum and copper utilization, all the world's growth of tin and nickel, and more than world's growth of zinc and lead (Griswold, 2007).

Another source said that "China consumes one third of total global output of steel, 40% of cement and 26% of the world's copper". Mostly natural resources and raw materials are in developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America. Beijing has placed

increasing attention in recent years on its relation to nations in these regions. Invalid source specified. In 2006, 143 Chinese companies were in Brazil. By 2007, China has become third biggest trading partner of Brazil. In 2009, two-way trade reached at US\$43 billion. And “China displaced the US as Brazil's largest trading partner after more than 80 years of American dominance” (Horta, 2015, p. 3).

1.3. STATEMENT OF THE STUDY

Strategic shift of power is happening from the US to Asia as one of the driver of contemporary geopolitics. China Russia relations have reawakened and shown signs of progress after a post 9/11 hiatus. China Russia are coordinating their geopolitical maneuvering and diplomatic efforts limiting the liberty of action of the US camp. Keeping in mind, broader geopolitical perspective of One Belt, One Road (OBOR) and its role in improving China-Russia relationships must not be ignored. This relationship help shifting the global leadership towards Asia with a set of new centers of power. Russia’s dream to gain access to warm waters will also be fulfilled. According to a report, Russia’s Eurasian Economic Union (EEU), and China’s OBOR, from an economic point of view have no contradiction between them, rather they complement each other (Feige, 2016). On the other hand, it is also said that ambitious strategic initiative, reevaluation of historic Silk Road by Xi Jinping can sow the seeds for one more geopolitical era (Cheung).

In fact, China, has developed good relations with neighbors for handling relations with the Washington. In this course, China needs to assure the region and world about its peaceful rise. Additionally, avert the rise of alliances hostile to China that may contain its freedom of action (Bae & Kim, 2014, p. 78).

China is also increasing its correspondence and collaborations with different countries, particularly the big powers. China puts its relationships with neighboring countries equivalent to relation with the US and key players. China accepts and consistently

dedicated to democratization of worldwide matters and equality among countries. In international relationship, China places herself in major powers particularly with United States (US), remains at top with neighbor states and then with developing countries as well. It is enthusiastically serving as a leader of developing world to safeguard their interests in the UNSC and to cease the wealth gap amid the developing and developed nations.

1.4. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main objectives of the study are as under:

1. To find the interests as well as policies of China in the region and beyond the region
2. To understand China's expanding global influence in developing countries including Pakistan, and its cooperating and competing interests with the United States
3. To learn about strategic shift of power happening from the US to Asia as one of the driver of contemporary geopolitics

1.5. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The article is a qualitative attempt to underscore Chinese expanding influence as a re-emerging global power, role of developing world in the formation of its foreign policy and implications for the US interests. Secondary data has been reviewed using a variety of information sources such as books, research journals, newspaper articles, internet search engines. Other secondary sources studies, reports, published and unpublished, by various international agencies, and by eminent scholars in this field are critically examined. The primary data is collected through interviews to update the subject. The primary sources are personnel directly involved in important functions like policy making, planning, implementation of the project/CPEC at national level and other stakeholders. Discussion has been made with the help of primary and secondary data.

1.6. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS**1.6.1. China's Growing Soft Power vs United States Soft Power Deficit in State to State Relations**

China looks expert in developing relationships to advance global picture especially in developing countries. Its effort is being extended day by day in more organized behavior which reflects determination to become a great power with worldwide presence and influence. Countries from everywhere throughout the world progressively eager to have working relations with Beijing. President of Venezuela, Hugo Chavez sworn to turn his oil industry to China and showed his intentions to exports one million barrels of crude oil per day to China and away from America. The Chinese Development Bank provided about \$40 billion to the Chavez government during 2008 to 2012. Uzbek leader Islam Karomov throw US forces out of bases in his country (Kurlantzick, 2007, pp. 9-10), (John, p. 44), (Zachary, p. 10).

In fact, China does not impose any condition to its aid and follow the principle of noninterference. Beijing helps developing countries experiencing issues within its capacity. Although aid provided by China is limited, it is given earnestly with no condition connected (Hezuo, 2006). Its promise to noninterference of internal affairs; infrastructural development, aid without imposing conditions; priority attention to win-win solution, all these principles of Chinese foreign policy appeal to the developing world. Many countries even cut off their informal ties to Taiwan.

As Joseph Nye said that "soft power is an ability to get one wants through attraction rather than corrosion or payment" (Nye, 2004, p. 9). The soft power of a nation rests on three assets such as political principles, culture, and foreign policy. It emerges from the allure of a nation's all these resources. As far as foreign policy is concerned Nay maintained that foreign policy must be legitimate and moral and tit includes public, bilateral and multilateral diplomacy. At the point when nations make, their power

legitimate according to other, they experience less imperviousness to their desires. On the off chance that a nation's way of life (culture) and belief system (ideology) are appealing and alluring, other more eagerly follow. If a nation can shape worldwide principles, consistent with its interests and values, her activities will be considered more legitimate by the others (Nye, 2004, pp. 10-11), (Lai, 2012, p. 5).

In 2004, "a BBC poll of 23,000 people in 22 countries showed that 48% considered China a positive global influence; 10 points higher than the U.S." (McGregor, 2006). In 2005, the public opinion poll by BBC mirrored the achievement of Chinese public relations endeavors when it found that "49 percent of people surveyed thought that China's influence was mostly positive (a striking 11 points higher than that of the US" (Rawnsley, n.d.).

Beijing is controlling the branches of news services and publish multiple languages throughout the developing countries. China is also controlling CCTV, English language 24-hours news help to advance China as government needs itself depicted by the viewers abroad. CCTV News is an instrument of soft power. The role of CCTV-9 (which was rebranded in 2004 as CCTV International, then rebranded as CCTV News in 2010), has been to enhance external publicity (waixuan) to promote China's going out by strengthening governance, including foreign policy, through media (Jirik, 2016, pp. 3538-39).

China has around 731 million internet users in 2017. China has made difficult for foreign technology firms to compete within the country. The Chinese government criticizes the way 'Western' media report China. It charges their biasness on issues, for example, human rights, Tibet and democracy. The US based social media outlets like Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram are blocked. In 2013, Google likewise surrendered its battle with Chinese authorities, after a prolonged battle over the banning of search terms. In late 2014, China banned/restricted Google's email service Gmail (Xu, 2017)

In 2004, China propelled Confucius Institutes to support Chinese language learning in Seoul. These Institutes now have reached to 150 and most of them are in developing countries. Since 2012, 32 new Confucius Institutes have been opened in Latin America by China (Chen, 2014). By 2010, more than 100 million individuals are Mandarin. The learning programs of Chinese language are quickly expanding with the help of the Government of China. China has likewise opened many education training program, packages for tourists and worldwide conferences to advance a fresh picture of modernity.

1.6.2. Soft Power: How Much is it Successful?

Although many countries of developing world are getting benefit significantly from China's hunger for natural resources, and all the above-mentioned factors can increase the influence of Chinese soft power on the glob in future but it is still uncertain. In fact, China often comes under the criticism of local population of developing world for the political principle and economic policies. They complain that Chinese policies strengthened dictatorship. "China is using foreign aid to 'buy' favors from autocratic leaders" (Appelson, April 13, 2012 – April 15, 2012, p. 33). We can find lots of examples in this regard. Furthermore, there are concerns that Chinese firms import workers more than local citizens.

Similar voices regarding foreign labor induction are also being heard in these days Pakistan during my survey which is part of my PhD study. Mostly young generation in Pakistan is concerned about Chinese labor working on the projects under CPEC. A member of Chamber of Commerce in Pakistan said that as in Malaysia and Thailand are net importer of foreign labor, Pakistan is likewise has started to appeal millions of foreign workforces and this trend is anticipated to grow in the coming decade.

When I asked, a question regarding foreign Labor induction during the meeting with Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms Ahsan Iqbal, he ensured that

we will consider it. According to the Director CPEC Hassan Daud, labor from both countries will work on these projects. Another person working at the office of Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms Islamabad said that “Do you feel Miss, we are in a position to bargain with China?” Although CPEC is regarded as a national project but I think there are some issues that need to be addressed at early stage.

The Gwadar port and CPEC are so imperative having an interesting part to play in strategic and economic key calculations of China. Yet, another critical part of Chinese interest in the economic corridor is that most of it is going to be invested on the social sector. A portion of the cash will go into ventures, for example, hospital and vocational training institutions. In yesteryears, Pakistani policymakers have excessive focus on military and political relations not on social sector. In recent years, there is need to advance socio-cultural collaboration between the two sides. Still language barrier is major hindrance in people to people contact. Some nations are watching closely Chinese model of development to determine how to duplicate her success but there is no sign that China is promoting its model of development in to developing nations.

1.6.3. Energy Resources

As the biggest energy consuming country in 2011, the second largest worldwide oil consumer behind the US and third largest oil importer state with 4.50 million barrels per day after the US and Japan in 2012 (www.eia.gov), (Yao Wang, 2015, p. 467), China's primary motivation for deepening relationship with Middle East, Central Asia, Africa and Latin American is to secure and reliable supply of energy resources. China is emphasizing on developing countries to meet its growing energy needs with economic, military aid and diplomatic support. Chinese interests in the developing countries are mutually strengthening.

Other factors driving China's policy towards Arab world including sympathizing with the Palestinian cause, is to get its support on the Uighur insurgency in Xinjiang

autonomous region and maintain harmonious relationship with the 55 million Muslims residing in China. At the same time, China has also maintained a close relation with Israel in recent years. And Israel is also one of those countries that has never granted diplomatic recognition to Taiwan (Bajpae, March 14, 2006), (Zhao, 1996, p. 68). So, Chinese trade and aid to developing countries helped to isolate the Taiwan as well.

1.6.4. China Oil Import Sea routes

Regions	Routes
Latin America	Panama Canal > Pacific Ocean > China
North Africa	North Africa > Mediterranean > Straits of Gibraltar > Cape of Good Hope > Malacca Straits > Taiwan Straits > China
West Africa	West Africa-Cape of Good Hope-Malacca Strait-China
Middle East	Persian Gulf > Straits of Hormuz > Malacca Straits > Taiwan Straits > China
Southeast Asia	Malacca Straits > Taiwan Straits > China

Data Source:(Yao Wang, 2015, p. 470), Table is prepared by the Researcher

To secure its shipping routes, commercial and energy interests, China has strengthened diplomatic relations with coastal countries and built ports and infrastructures along the SLOCs from Persian Gulf to South China Sea (SCS). In western notion, it was known as the “String of Pearls” strategy. Shee Poon Kim identified the six motivations for developing these ‘Pearls’; “securing energy resources, access to new markets, fine-tuned control over value Chain and supply routes, social development and political stability, neutralizing competition and unblocking chokepoints with port and pipeline acupuncture” (Kim, 2011). Christian Bedford writes that the “rough infrastructure improvements, diplomatic agreements and military installations, China is seeking to create a ‘String of Pearls’ to protect and monitor its vitally important SLOCs” (Bedford, Winter 2009, p. 37).

In October 2013, Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed Maritime Silk Road (MSR) Plan under which, China announced US\$1.6 billion (10 billion Yuan) fund to build ports, infrastructure development projects and to improve maritime connectivity with Southeast Asian nations and coastal states of Indian Ocean (Goud, 2014). China has cooperated with littoral states of Indian Ocean, to build the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and China- India-Myanmar-Bangladesh Economic Corridor. By investing in these mega-projects, China plans to alleviate the security related apprehensions, encompassing from territorial differences in the SCS to transnational threats such as terrorism, armed robbery and piracy. China's grand strategy of OBOR is expected to transform economy by engaging the trading partners along ancient Silk Road. Reaching from east to west, OBOR will extend to Europe through Central Asia and the MSR will link SLOCs from Southeast Asia to the Middle East and Africa. Beijing pursuit free trade agreement and negotiated with GCC for Middle East Free Trade Zone (FTZ). Beijing negotiated with South Africa Custom Union and Numerous joint FTA are under progress in Latin America too. In southeast Asia, Beijing proceeding with work to build a FTZ with ASEAN by 2010.

SCO contributing setting up new method of state-to-state relations. "Chinese have alluded to "Shanghai Spirit" as the supporting of SCO, portrayed as containing five 'C' – confidence, communication, cooperation, coexistence and common interests and three New 'S'– new type of interstate relationship, new security concept, and new model of regional cooperation" (Kavalski, 23-May-2016, pp. 74-75).

1.6.5. The Developing World: China and United States

China and United States have strategic rivalry in developing world. At the same time, both recognize that global terrorization is originating from the developing countries and recognize about their stability, wellbeing and security of the politically weak and strategically unstable of the regions. Both want to empower the developing countries to

resolve their internal problems and prevent from emergence of failed state that may turn into a ground for infectious disease, terrorism and international crime.

Chinese focus to economic development, infrastructure building and finishing wealth gap amid developing and developed world is not different from US effort, nor Washington's attention to good governance conflicting to Chinese interest. Undeniably, both have aid programs to provide education and health in Asia and Africa. In energy sector, "both countries want free flow of oil and gas, sustainable growth and national security"(Hefner, 2009, p. 129). Greater dialogue and coordination for energy policy help to mitigate rivalry yet the counterproductive rivalry seems in this arena. At the same time, the diverging interests of both the countries are also very important. China's noninterference policy has clashed with US to encourage democratic governance, and sustainable development reforms in developing countries with poor records (Alden, 2007, p. 9).

Beijing's role in United Nations is also divergent with Washington's perspectives. China has used its veto power in United Nations Security Council for many times in the favor of developing nations. Beijing traditionally dislikes sanctions and likes the method of diplomacy to resolve disputes. This behavior has put China at odd with US and other Western nations. Beijing's policy of noninterference is a counterpoint to Washington's attention to promotion of democracy and human rights in developing world. Chinese meaning of human right highlighting financial and social improvement is not the same as the meaning of US which highlights civil and political rights.

The influence of China is expanding beyond the region. China is emerging as an economic and political player in Southeast Asia, Africa and Latin America where US already has incited. Beijing is considered as the challenger to Washington's regional interests. China emerged as dominate strategic player in the South Asia under OBOR and CPEC as well. China has offered many countries a strategic opportunity to develop

an independent foreign policy. However, it is doubtful that Beijing is challenging Washington around the globe. China likes positive and cooperative relations with the only superpower of the world.

1.6.6. Reemergence of China as a Global Power

After World War 2 (WW2), the US assumed the principal role in designing/ outlining all significant global mechanisms, expanded the influence of its monetary and economic policy over the world. Two organizations the World Bank (WB) and International Monetary Fund (IMF) were envisioned to provide assistance for development aid and to administer global financial policy. In the both international financial institutions that have been simply instruments of American power, China was a participator than designator.

At that point China started to spend more currency on development aid than the WB and prefer to organize the creation of new financial institutions. In a few regards, China's recent assertiveness is just usual. Amid 500-1500 AD, China was the more influential nation on the planet. Toward the start of the seventeenth century, China had a greater populace than all of Europe. Now China is recovering leading positions in global affairs it enjoyed for a considerable length of time (Kurlantzick, 2007, p. 11).

The China-led US\$40 billion Silk Road Infrastructure Fund (SRIF) launched in February 2014 invested in OBOR infrastructure projects. SRIF is primarily supported by gigantic foreign exchange reserves of China, which stands at US\$3.20 trillion. It is envisioned to be overseen like sovereign wealth fund of China.

The New Development Bank (NDB) established on 15 July 2014, is a BRICS multilateral development bank. The bank was seeded with an underlying capital of US\$50 billion, that is planned to increase to US\$100 billion. Then Asian Infrastructure

Investment Bank (AIIB) originated in October 2014, aims to be a global development bank, with registered capital of US\$100 billion (Cheung),(Hill-choi, 2016).

As a rising power, China never show an intention of challenging the existing order. However, the formation of the new AIIB now turns out to be exceptionally in this debate. The AIIB potentially undermines to disturb a framework set up by the US after WW2. The BRICs Bank, is a likely competitor to the central role of the IMF. The two SRIF and the AIIB are planned to strengthen infrastructural development across Asia. Both offer a substitute to the WB. It involved some of closest allies of the US for example, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand and nations from West Europe, even Japan is thinking about joining.

Dissimilar to the WB, the China does not impose any demand regarding labor or human rights, as the WB generally does. Even, China's companies so often provide the worker send out Chinese nationals for infrastructure development, to build bridges, roads and ports. The lot of examples can be observed in the developing countries of Asia and Africa. Pakistan is likewise one of them. China's principles of foreign policy are providing the basic guidelines for establishing another International Political & Economic Order.

1.6.7. China's Global Influence and the US

China has extended its influence being an economic and political power in Southeast Asia, South Asia, Africa and Latin America. Christian Bedford writes that "as a rising world power, which expected to overtake the US as the largest economy in the world by early 2025; it is normal for China to search for contacts and partnerships further than the commercial interests around the globe."

China is just going about as one would think of a rising global player. Through establishing pearls, China has received a portion of the qualities of the preceding

colonial powers to strengthen its strategic position and commercial ties (Bedford, Winter 2009). It has also prompted the US now to think about the impact of China's growing influence on US global interests in above mentioned regions and where and in which area partnership is suitable with China. If the US adopts preposterous/ absurd or challenging way to deal with China, it will sustain Chinese doubts about US contempt and intent to control its rise as a noteworthy power (Bergsten, 2008, p. 228). *Zbigniew Brzezinski, one of leading strategic thinkers of the US, the ex-national security adviser to former US President Jimmy Carter, said, during an interview, that "Stupid irritations" over Taiwan only antagonize Beijing*". America's long-lasting interests lie primarily with strengthening our relations to China. China can't lead alone and even if the US tries to go it alone in the world without China, it will not be able to assert itself. "If we irritate the Chinese to the point where they begin to look for alternatives, they will find them" (Gardels, 2016).

It seems that they have find it. Both China and India are members of the G-20 that is a group of 20 biggest economies on the planet, with the mandate for administration and control of worldwide economy and the creator members of BRICS, a group of five rising economies, which are projected to supplant the US and European economies as the biggest economies within three decades or thereabouts.

It is said that more influential India will seek its own interests, and many of those interests seems closer to Chinese interests than to those of the US. Growing power of India will pave the way for China-India alignment and if that will be more effective to counter preferred policies of the US. As indicated by Christopher J. Pehrson, "the balance of power all through the 'String of Pearls' area is being shifted and will keep on changing as China develops in strength and stature. Changes to this balance are principally diplomatic, economic and in "soft power Certainly, China is finding a way to enhance its geopolitical position through initiatives like creating broad transport networks, building roads, railways, ports, and economic corridors. The MSR expected

to be a symbol of solidarity and a promise to collaboration among countries. In this way, collaboration among all nations in the region, in terms of trade and economy, would be a perfect situation with shifting regional dynamics.

1.7. CONCLUSION

Evidently, China is one of the major economic powers where political and cultural influences remain nascent and limited. China still enjoys little influence in the developed world because its relations with developing countries remain elite driven. Common people have little understanding of or contact with China (Hanauer & Morris, 2014, p. 2).

Language is also one of the barriers. Moreover, little evidence exists that Chinese soft power has significant impact on the policies in developing world. Developing world is accommodating with China so far, for getting advantages of the rising political and economic power to advance their own advantages and gain leverage against the pressure of developed world as the US. In other words, developing world calculates its interests in the way of balancing power politics. Beijing will proceed with grapple how to adjust its uniqueness as the greatest developing nation with expanding influence around the world and will assume responsibility of security and stability for the international system.

Martin Jacques writing about the rise of previous hegemony, the UK and the US reflected that “there has always been a significant time lag between their emergence as great economic powers and their subsequent arrival as major hegemonic powers enjoying broader political, cultural and military as well as economic influence”. Let’s see in the case of China, how long it will take to emerge as influential global power having uniqueness in foreign policy and remaining strict with its image of soft power. The prospects for Chinese soft power relies upon whether China turns into a prosperous, secure, stable, and just country.

It is also up to other powers including India to collaborate with China and influence the Asia and world or to be a strategic ally of the US and US led alliance to contain China. The prospect of strategic stability and peace in the region rests on India's strategic options as well which is the core driver of the Asian Security landscape. It is being said that 21st century is Asia's century. An environment of peace and security is indispensable for human growth and development. People of Asia have a special role to play by establishing network across communities and borders to build the Asian century, a sustainable basis of peace and development as said by Former Prime Minister of Pakistan Raja Pervez Ashraf in his speech in the inaugural Conference of the CICA Non-Governmental Forum on 26 May 2015 at Beijing.

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Notes:

Note-1

Abbreviations Used

SCO: Shanghai Cooperation Organization

ASEAN: Association of Southeast Asian Nations

ASEAN Plus Three

CACF: China Arab Cooperation Forum

CACF: China Africa Cooperation Forum

OAS: Organization of American States in Latin America

SAARC: South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation

Note12

Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is an ASEAN run trade contract involving sixteen Asia Pacific economies aiming to become the world's largest free trading bloc. It includes all 10 ASEAN states and the 6 other nations Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand and South Korea with which the group has FTAs.) (CSIS, 2012)