

Pak-China Relations in 21st Century: a Critical Appraisal

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Abstract

The relations between Peoples Republic of China and Islamic Republic of Pakistan are second to none. It is the most prominent and worthy relationship of the era due to their time tested and strong brotherhood friendship. Since the beginning of diplomatic relations their relations never faced serious troubled. Most important element in their bilateral relation is their ideological differences but two different ideologies never effected their relations. In the 21st Century their bilateral relations gained global attentions owing to Free Trade Agreements and CPEC. This work is based on secondary data and tries to explore all aspects of China-Pakistan relations.

Key Words: China-Pakistan Relations, Strategic Importance, Cooperation, BRI, CPEC

Introduction

Islamic Republic of Pakistan has a long and cooperative relationship with People's Republic of China. A close attractiveness of perceptions and common interests remain the sign of two-sided relations. Since the 1962 Sino-Indian War, Pakistan has upheld China on most issues of significance to the last mentioned; particularly those identified with the topic of China's sway like Taiwan, Xinjiang, and Tibet and other delicate issues. Islamabad helped Beijing in reestablishing formal relations with the West. The helped make possible the 1972 Nixon visit to China. Pakistan has teamed up with China in comprehensive military and financial ventures, considering China to be a stabilizer to India and the United States. China additionally has a reliable record of supporting Pakistan in all issues. Pakistan's military needs hugely Chinese warfare hardware, and joint tasks of both financial and combat areas. China has provided hardware to help Pakistan's nuclear program and she has been also blamed for giving Nuclear Technology to Pakistan.

The bilateral relations began in 1950 when Pakistan was among the first countries to recognized PRC and break relations with the ROC (Taiwan). The 1962 Sino-Indian War two countries have put significant cooperation on the upkeep to a close and compassionate relationship. PRC has given financial, military, and specified support to Pakistan and both

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consider a close strategic partner. Appeasing relations were established in 1950, military assistance started in 1960s, a strategic unification was formed in 1972, and financial cooperation started in 1979. China is the Pakistan's largest arms supplier and third largest trading partner. Beijing also assisted Islamabad nuclear program. The Pressler Amendment in 1990s suspended all American military support and concerns that Pakistan was to build up a nuclear weapon. Beijing has since 1990 blown out into military and financial cooperation owing to of Pakistan's opinion that America's impact and support in the area should be countered with Beijing help.

China has been a stable source of military hardware to the Pakistani Army, establishing ammunition factories, giving mechanical assistance, and modernizing existing facilities. Both are engaged with the joint wander of several projects to upgrade military and weaponry systems, like JF-17 Thunder, K-8 Karakorum propel preparing air ship, space technology, AWACS systems, Al-Khalid tanks and the Babur cruise missile. China is the largest investor in the Gwadar Deep Sea Port. The port is strategically situated at the mouth of the Strait of Hormuz. The China Pakistan Economic Corridor (PEC) which is the key part of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is another major cooperation between two states. CPEC will connect Asia, Africa and Europe. The initial cost of CPEC was \$ 46 billion but later it reached \$62 billion and it will connect 67 states.

Review of Literature

The review of literature is the essential part of any research. It provides background knowledge and other details about the study. The existing literatures also help the researcher to suggest the dimension and methods of research. There is a huge amount of data available regarding to this study but Dr. Raja Muhammad Khan concluded the bilateral relations in his work "Prospects of Sino-Pakistan relationship" (2011) and stated that the People's Republic of China cooperated Pakistan since the establishment of diplomatic relations and Pakistan also supported China in her isolation age. He explains political linkage, economic cooperation, defence cooperation, cooperation on international forum, nuclear cooperation and energy cooperation in details and also mentions the prospects of future cooperation between two states. His paper highlighted the past as well as future prospects of shared interest which increased its value.

Rashid Ahmad Khan (2012) stated that China supported Pakistan in all nasty conditions and in 21st century her support in terrorism is due to common fear from Uighur and ETIM. Claude Rakisits (2012) concluded Pak-China relations that the sixty year relationship of Pakistan and China is odd partnership because there is ideological difference between China and

Pakistan. The communism and Islam are two different ways and ideologies. But there is one common thing which forced both states to cooperate that is their national interest and the supreme national interest is to contain India by all means.

Jafar Riaz Kataria and Anum Naveed (2014) explained the relationships in brought ways and try to explore the social and economic cooperation between two states. They titled the relations reliable and time tested relationship. Zahid Ali Khan and Shabir Ahmad (2015) explain that since the formation of relationship China is the key element in Pakistan foreign policy and policy makers always formulate friendly and cooperative policy towards Beijing. Andrew Small (2015) in his study “The China-Pakistan Axis: Asia’s New Geopolitics” concluded that the cooperation of China with her best and reliable ally Pakistan is the real and time tested friend of China since China’s birth Islamabad supported PRC. He focused on China’s support to Pakistan in her mean time the war of 1965, 1971 and 1999 with India. In his view China uses Pakistan as regional balancer against India.

Mussarrat Abid and Ayesha Ashfaq (2015), scan that the Pakistan-China relation is second to none. Both states are cooperates each other to fulfill their dreams and CPEC is one the most vital dream. In this work they highlighted the pros and cons of CPEC to Pakistan. Shakeel Ahmad Ramay (2016) in his study “China Pakistan Economic Corridor: A Chinese dream being materialized through Pakistan” concluded that China is progressing by leaps and bounds especially in economy and became the World second largest economy. CPEC is one most prominent project of BRI. It will provide doors for the land lock countries of Central Asia. It will also fulfill the energy requirements of Pakistan. Minhas Majeed khan, Ahmad Rashid Malik, SairaEjaz, and Ume Farwa (2016) concluded the CPEC as the game changer for Pakistan and whole region.

Historical Background of Pak-China relations

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan recognized the People’s Republic of China (PRC) in 1950s and she became the first Muslim and third non Communist State to recognized PRC as an independent State. The diplomatic relations between Karachi and Peking was started in May 1951 (Khan R. M., 2011). Since the formation of diplomatic relations both Islamabad and Beijing were enjoyed all weather tested friendship and became the virtue of best neighborhood relation in World. In historical context both states shared very best cooperation so, the brief overview of the historical background Pakistan and China are explore in following steps;

Recognition of China and dawn of diplomatic ties (1949-1960)

The People's Republic of China (PRC) was established in 1949 under the leadership of Mao Zedong while the Islamic Republic of Pakistan was became independent state in 1947. Pakistan recognized PRC as an independent state in 1950s instead of Taiwan. The diplomatic relations between Beijing and Karachi were established in May 1951 (Khan R. M., 2011). In the initial age of the establishment of diplomatic relations the trade relation buildup between Pakistan and China. Due to the issue of the devaluation of currency trade relation between Pakistan and India suffered hugely. Pakistan needed coal to run her industries and wanted to export cotton and Jute but due to currency issue India refused to import Cotton and Jute, at that crucial time China offer coal in exchange of Cotton and that was called "Coal for Cotton barter deal" (Javaid & Jahangir, 2015).

Pakistan joined American security pact SEATO and CENTO initially to counter external threat due to which the bilateral relations not gained proper place. Later in the Bandung Conference of 1955 in Indonesia Pakistan's Prime Minister Mohammad Ali Bogra successfully convinced the Chinese counterpart Chou En-Lai that Pakistan is not against China under SEATO and CENTO. (Javaid & Jahangir, 2015) The Bandung Conference seeded the cooperation and mutual trust between Beijing and Karachi. In the mid of the 1950 Pakistani Prime Minister Suhrawardy visited China and he openly explain that Pakistan joined Capitalist not means total ban on Pakistan friendship with Communist states. Later in 1956 Chinese Primer Zhou Enlai visited Karachi and meet with his counterpart. In that visit both leaders agreed that the political difference between Pakistan and China should not prevent to strengthening the friendship. In late 1950s the issue of Tibet raised and PLA took strong action to crush the Tibetan people. Dale Lama the spiritual leader of Tibet flees to India and in that issue Pakistan was not in favored China (Grare, 2017).

Crisis and Cooperation between Pakistan and China (1961-1970)

In the initial age of the era Ayub Khan introduced new policy and wanted to have good and friendly relations with three big powers China, Soviet Union and United States. While in the beginning of era the bilateral relations faced some challenges and issues due to border issue between Pakistan and China. The Sino-India war leads two countries more closely. Pakistan condemned the act of India after the Indo-China war. Later this issue was solved by border agreement in March, 1963. In 1963 China also gave \$50 million interest free economic support to strengthen Pakistan economic bond. In this border agreement Pakistan gifted the area of 5180 square kilometers and gained the area of 1942 square kilometer from China.

This agreement was critiqued by both India and America. The United States postponed the point four \$3 million loan for the construction of Dacca airport. Then China provided the financial assistance to Pakistan. In that year China and Pakistan also signed air transport agreement. According to that agreement Both PRC and Pakistan's airline could operate in each other territory (Javaid & Jahangir, 2015).

In the war of 1965 PRC provided military, economic and political support to Pakistan against India. China also supported Pakistan's stance on Kashmir and criticized on India. In that war Soviet Union not participated while United States placed sanctions on both states. China provided all type of assistance to Pakistan and this war becomes the traumatic event that shaped the friendly relations. In 1966 China supplied the weapons worth of \$ 250 million to Pakistan in which Chinese mad F-6 Fighters, T-9 Tanks and anti- aircraft guns are included (Jetly, 2012). Than Pakistan realized China's importance and she gave Most Favorite Nation status to China and signed trade agreement. China provided economic assistance of worth 15 million Rupees to Heavy Mechanical complex (HMC) Taxila. In response Pakistan supported one China policy and Chin's membership in United Nations (Javaid & Jahangir, 2015). At the end of 1960s Pakistan and China jointly started the Karakorum highway project. The major shift in China's policy was occurred when the border skirmishes were broke out between Soviet Union and China. China tilted her policy towards west specially United States and Pakistan played the vital role. The United States was also in the favor of China and she wanted to established relations with PRC. US needed the help of Pakistan in this regard and US President Nixon requested Pakistan to established China-US channel to buildup relations.

Recognitions of China in World politics and strategic cooperation (1971-1990)

The era of 1970s was the most important era of friendship between Pakistan and China. Pakistan was playing vital role to established relations between US and China. In this regard Pakistan fully supported her best friend China and her ally America and the US National Security Advisor Hennery Kissinger secretly visited China with the assistance of Pakistan (Xie T. , 2009). Kissinger met with different leaders in China and furnished the Chinese land for President Nixon visit. In October 1971, China got membership in UN and also permanent membership in UN Security Council which was due to the overtly support of Pakistan. In the Pak-India War of 1971 China supported Pakistan and provides ammunitions and arms. In that particular year China got permanent membership in UNSC and Chinese representative criticized on India for the crisis. China fully supported Pakistan in UN General Assembly and UN Security Council.

Later in February 1972 the United States President Richard Nixon visited China and meet Mao Zedong and other leaders. He spent eight days in China and Nixon was the first US President who visited China after 1949 (Ali S. M., 2005). President Nixon signed the Shanghai Communiqué of 1972. Pakistani Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto visited China and meet with his counterpart in May 1972. China provided MiG-19 fighter and 100 T-54 and T-59 tanks to Pakistan (Jetly, 2012). China also approved \$300 million economic and military aid to Pakistan. In August 1972 China vetoed against the membership of newly state Bangladesh in the United Nations. Later Pakistan gained \$600 million economic and military aid and China provided 500 T-59 tanks, 25 naval vessels, and 300 F-6 combat aircraft. Pakistan also constructed a tank repair factory at Taxila and air force repair factory near Kamra with the assistance of China (Javaid & Jahangir, 2015).

Pakistan signed a protocol on defense cooperation and production with China in 1974. The relations between Pakistan and China became more reliable and strong in this era. On the other side Islamabad became the center of cooperation between US and China. Later at the end of the era Soviet Union invaded in Afghanistan and Pakistan became the front ally of US to fight American War with Soviet army. Due to the Soviet invasion in Kabul the Washington, Beijing and Islamabad axes was launched to sabotage the Soviet intervention. China condemned the act of Soviet and considered the invasion as a serious threat for the peace and security of Asia.

The era of 1980s was the most important era of Cold War due to Soviet invasion in Afghanistan and US, China and Pakistan's collaboration against Soviet Union. This was the era of triangular detent and entente between Washington, Beijing and Moscow. Where Pakistan's was play significant role as an instrument in Afghan War against Soviet. United States and China both provide military as well as economic support to Pakistan to surplus the evil. In 1986 China signed comprehensive nuclear cooperation agreement with Pakistan (Khan R. M., 2011). In that agreement China agreed to export four nuclear reactors to Pakistan to full fill the energy requirements. The 2 reactors are installed initially while remaining two was installed in 2010 (Khan R. M., 2011). In mean time of crisis of Tiananmen Square incident Pakistan favored China. Pakistan also favored one China policy and recognized Tibet and Taiwan as a part of mainland China. China also provided military support to Pakistan to strengthen her defense and military capability (Gilani, 2011). Furthermore in the era of 1980s Pakistan officials and Chinese officials several times visited Beijing and Islamabad and several MOUs were signed. The last visit of the era was the visit of Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to People's Republic of China and Chinese Premier Li Ping visited Pakistan. This era was also full of cooperation and coordination between the followers of two different ideologies.

Political Crisis in Pakistan and Pakistan Nuclear Explosion (1990-2000)

In the initial years of this era Pakistan faced a serious political crisis but behind all issues and crisis the relations between People's Republic of China and Islamic Republic of Pakistan never concerned. But due to ups and downs in Pakistan politics the relation not flourished as much as required (Khan R. M., 2011). In this era all the West and pro-democratic States were against China for the violation of human rights but time tested friendship and cooperation between Pakistan and PRC were developed (Price, 2011). The United States imposed sanctions on Pakistan due to her nuclear program but China was the only state who supported Pakistan in mean times. China provided all assistance and support to Pakistan regarding her nuclear program as well as economic support. The People's Republic of China also provide assistant in the manufacturing of Pakistan missile technology in this era. The Chinese President Jiang Zemin visited Pakistan in 1996 and met his counterpart and other officials in Islamabad.

Pakistan tested her nuclear weapon in May 1998, in the response of Indian nuclear explosion. China fully supported Pakistan nuclear program and provided full assistance to become nuclear state. However, China not vetoed against the resolution of UN Security Council 1172 (Rakisits, 2012). The resolution was basically condemning the nuclear test of India and Pakistan. The second most important event of this era was the Kargil War which was fought between Pakistan and India on Line of Control (LOC). China forced both states to solve the issue by peaceful negotiation while she remained neutral in this crisis (Rakisits, 2012). After the War the democratic government was takeover by military General Pervez Musharraf while the cooperation and friendly relations with China remain his first priority. After the few month of Musharraf took office he visited China, meet with his counterpart and assured for cooperation and friendly relations (Rakisits, 2012).

Golden Age to Strengthen Economic, Military, Strategic Cooperation and Bilateral Comradeship (2001-2008)

This era of the 21st Century become very fruitful age for Pak-China relations in all fields prominently in defense, economic and strategic fields. The military government under General Pervez Musharraf became more cooperative than previous governments. He visited China several times to China and Chinese officials also visited to Islamabad. The year 2001 was the 50th anniversary of Pakistan-China friendship and this year was celebrated with great zeal and zest in both countries. The Chinese officials and Pakistan's officials visited to Beijing and Islamabad. One of the most important initiative take by Musharraf was that he took over the operation of

Gwadar deep Sea Port to China. The Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji visited Pakistan in May 2001. He urged the two sides to increase cooperation in agriculture, infrastructure, information technology and other fields under the principle of mutual benefit for achieving common goals (Fazal-ur-Rahman, 2002). During this visit Islamabad and Beijing signed 6 Agreements and 1 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The six agreements comprised on Economic and Technical Cooperation, Tourism Cooperation, Lease Agreement on Saindak Project, Supply of Trains engine, Supply of Passenger Coaches to Pakistan Railways, White Oil Pipeline and MOU between Pakistan Telecommunications and China's ZTE.

In 2002, Chinese Premier Wu Bangguo visited Pakistan to attain the ground breaking ceremony of Gwadar deep Sea port. China provided 80% finance to the Gwadar project phase one. The total cost of the project was about \$248 million (Fani, 2009). In the fiscal year of 2002 bilateral trade between Islamabad and Beijing reached at the level of \$1.8 billion (Price, 2011). Furthermore in this particular Pakistan called foreign investors to invest in the Saindak project. A Chinese company Metallurgical Corporation of China (MCC) showed her interest in this project and signed deal for ten year lease (Khan & Kasi, 2017).

In 2003 Pakistan's Prime Minister Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamali visited China and meet with his counterpart (Gilani, 2011). In that visit both states agreed to develop bilateral trade and cooperation. In that particular year President Musharraf also visited Beijing and met with his Chinese counterpart (Gilani, 2011). In 2004 Pakistan and China conducted joint army exercise in Xining province (Jetly, 2012). That exercise was basically for counter terrorism and friendly exercise and named it as "Friendship 2004" (Jetly, 2012, pp. 9-10). In 2005 China agreed to provide four Frigate ship to Pakistan Navy (Jetly, 2012). The Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Good Neighborly Relations was also signed in 2005 (Rakisits, 2012).

In the fiscal year of 2006, in November Chinese President visited Islamabad and signed China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement which was come into force since July 2007 (Rakisits, 2012). The Chinese President also invited 500 Youngsters from Pakistan to visit China (Gilani, 2011). China also introduced Urdu department in Peking University (Gilani, 2011). In Hu's visit Pakistan and China both agreed to improve trade volume from \$5.2 billion to \$15 billion by 2010 (Rakisits, 2012). The second Anti-Terrorism Military exercise was also took placed in 2006 (Jetly, 2012). In the year of 2007 China-Pakistan joint ventured multirole fighter air craft JF-17 Thunder was publically rolled out and the first delivery was released. The first phase of Gwadar deep Seaport was completed and inaugurated in 2007 with the assistance of China (Jetly, 2012). The total cost of the first phase was about

\$248 million while China provided 80% of the cost (Jetly, 2012). China also provided \$200 million for the construction of Coastal Highway connecting Gwadar to Karachi (Jetly, 2012). In the era of President Pervez Musharraf the bilateral relations became stronger and reliable as compared to previous periods. Pakistan and China also signed extradition treaty in 2007 (Mazari, 2013).

Pakistan Relations with China in Obama's Era (2009-2016)

The relations between Islamic Republic of Pakistan and People's Republic of China in the era of 2009-2016 were more successful and it turned into strongest relationship of the World. There is no permanent friend and permanent enemy in international relations but the bilateral relations between Pakistan and China is second to none (Kataria & Naveed, 2014). From the beginning of relations their ties were strong and all weather tested friendship. Pakistan's former Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani expressed the Pakistan-China relations in these words that "Pak-China relations is sweeter than honey, stronger than steel, higher than mountains and deeper than Ocean" and in the words of Chinese former President Hu Jintao that "China can leave gold but not friendship with Pakistan" (Jetly, 2012). The bilateral relations between two states in Obama era (2009-2016) consisted of two parts as ruling parties in Pakistan, the first tenure was the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) government under President Asif Ali Zardari and the second tenure is Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PMLN) government. But our focus is the era of 2009 to 2016 and the bilateral relations of this tenure are enlighten in following key notes.

Economic and Strategic Cooperation

In 2009 China became second largest trading partner of Pakistan and is also the second great hope of Pakistan after United States (Riedel & Singh, 2010). China and Pakistan signed the first free trade agreement in 2006 and the second free trade agreement in 2009 (Malik D. A., 2013). Pakistan is the first South Asian state having free trade agreement with China. In 2013 the operation of Gwadar deep Sea port was given to Chinese state run company while before that port was operated by Singapore's PSA international. In May 2014, Islamabad and Beijing signed another most important project of Metro Bus in Lahore and the Orange Line train project is also included (Javaid & Javaid, 2016).

In April 2015, the Chinese President came into Pakistan and signed 51 MOUs and 11 projects in which China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is one of the most important projects (Ahmar, 2015). The CPEC is the combination of different projects with the initially estimated cost of \$46

billion later it reached \$52 billion then \$55 billion and then \$62 billion (Siddiqui, 2017). CPEC is one main part of Chinese 'One Belt One Road' (OBOR) policy. CPEC is the combination of road networks, highways, railways and power generation plant from the China-Pakistan border to Gwadar deep sea port (Ahmar, 2015). CPEC is the game changer for Pakistan and the whole region (Sial, 2014). CPEC will be able to establish trade relations with China and landlocked Central Asian states.

The trade volume between Pakistan and China was about \$2 billion in 2006 and it reached \$16 billion in 2015 (Javaid & Javaid, 2016). The development in trade relations is about 12% annually increased and it is expected to further increase to \$25 billion by coming two or three years. The trade relations were developed day by day and the massive export was done by Chinese traders. Pakistan's imports from China in 2008 were about \$3774.1 million and her export to China was \$915.5 million. PRC's export towards Pakistan in the fiscal year 2014-15 was \$ 14573 million and her import from Pakistan was \$ 2509 million. The details of import, export of bilateral trade and the trade deficits are mention bellow in the following table.

Pak-China bilateral trade 2008-15 (US \$ million)

Year	Exports	Imports	Total	Trade deficit
2008	915.5	3774.1	5689.6	-2858.6
2009	973.8	7629.2	8608.0	-6655.4
2010	1573	7629	9202	-6056
2011	1930	9282	11212	-7352
2012	2856	10207	13063	-7351
2013	2916	12117	15033	-9201
2014	2509	14573	17082	-12064

Source: The Pakistan-China Bilateral Trade: The Future Trajectory (Malik A. R., 2015)

Counter Terrorism and Military Cooperation

China and Pakistan shared a long history of military and defense cooperation. The beginning of military cooperation was started in 1960s and the reliability of this cooperation boom up day by day. According to RajshreeJetly, (A research fellow of South Asian Studies in National University Singapore) China sold about \$7 billion worth of military equipment to Pakistan from 1978-2008.

In November 2009 China agreed to sell J-10 advanced fighter jets to Pakistan and the deal was about \$1.4 billion worth (Riedel & Singh, 2010). China gave 50 JF-17 to Pakistan after a month of Osama dead. China also

launched a communication Satellite for Pakistan in August 2011 (Mazari, 2013). Pakistan and China are conducted joint military exercise every two years since 2004 to counter terrorism. In 2011 China and Pakistan signed three MOUs to strengthen military cooperation, communication and intelligence sharing to counter terrorism (Mazari, 2013). Furthermore in that particular year Pakistan tested short range surface to surface range missile Hataf-II which was completed by Chinese cooperation (Rakisits, 2012).

China was the only state that supported Pakistan after the Ben Laden operation and taken supportive stance (Gilani, 2011). Islamabad and Beijing are working on several projects to strengthen Pakistan's defense capability. In these projects K-8 Karakoram advance training aircraft, production of Al-Khalid tank, Babar cruise missile, airborne warning and control system and JF-17 thunder. The JF-17 will minimize the Pakistan's dependency on US F-16 (Mazari, 2013). China also supported Pakistan to strengthen her naval forces and she supplied four frigates to the Pakistan's Navy. China also upgraded the Karachi dockyard.

China has many concerns over Muslim Uighur populations in Xinjiang province due to their strongest affiliation with terrorist organizations such as East Turkmenistan Islamic Movement (ETIM). Since the incident of 9/11 Pakistan and China are sharing strategies to counter terrorism. In those actions the joint military exercise of Pakistan and China since 2004 is more prominent. China allowed any foreign army first time in 2004 to drill military exercise since her birth (Khan R. A., 2012). China and Pakistan conducted several military exercise since 2004 and the basic aim of the joint exercise is to counter terrorism (Jetly, 2012).

Energy and Infrastructure Cooperation

In 2009 Pakistan and China signed several MOUs but one of the most important MOU regarding to energy that was the construction of Bunji Dam in GilgitBaltistan. In that MOU both states are agreed to construct a Dam on Bunji which can generate 7000 megawatt electricity (Dawn, 2009). In 2014 China approved a loan of \$ 6.5 million for the construction of nuclear power project at Karachi. In this project China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC) financed two reactors of 1100 megawatt each (Khan & Ahmad, 2015). This project can individually generate more power than the whole projects functioning in Pakistan.

Another most important project for energy and infrastructure cooperation is CPEC. The CPEC is the one major project of Chinese OBOR policy (Abid & Ashfaq, 2015). Initially the cost of CPEC was estimated \$ 46 billion and later it reached \$ 52 billion (Memon). CPEC is the network of

roads, air ports, sea ports and railways line which connect the Gwadar Sea port with Chinese city Kashgar via different routes. CPEC will provide way for the landlocked Central Asian states and Afghanistan. It will connect China with Middle East, Africa and other European states (Sial, 2014). Pakistan is facing the shortage of energy, due to this specially Pakistan industrial sector and other all fields of life is disturb. The China Pakistan Economic Corridor will resolve this issue (Ahmar, 2015). There are more than 15 energy projects under CPEC to fulfill the energy requirement of Pakistan some of them are 2x660MW Coal-fired Power Plants at Port Qasim Karachi, SukiKinari Hydro Power Station, Naran, KPK, Sahiwal 2x660MW Coal-fired Power Plant, Punjab, EngroThar Coal fired Power Plant, 300 MW imported Coal Based Power Project at Gwadar, Quaid-e-Azam 1000 MW Solar Park Bahawalpur and SSRL Thar Coal Block-I 6.8 mtpa & SEC Mine Mouth Power Plant (2x660MW) (Ashraf, 2017).

Cultural Exchange Programs

China and Pakistan shared a friendly and eternity relations due to whom they are introduced several cultural exchange programs. China and Pakistan signed their first agreement on bilateral cultural exchange agreement in 1965 and till now they signed more than 9 agreements and MOUs on cultural exchange. Both states cultural delegations are performing different cultural programs in both states. More than six thousands Pakistani students are studying in China (Hussain M. , 2012). In 2008 Pakistan and China signed MOUs to established campuses of Pak-China University in both states (Kataria & Naveed, 2014). In that year Pakistan culture and communication center was established in China Tsinghua University China. Later in 2009 Pakistan study center was established in Fudan University. In 2010 the Pak-China Center Islamabad was inaugurated by Pakistani Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani and China's Primer Wen Jiabao. In that ceremony Jiabao announced that China would be providing contract treatment of 2000 Pakistanis free of charges every year (The Express Tribune, December 18, 2010). In 2011 Sindh government announced that Chinese language a necessary subject in school level. China also introduced several scholarship programs for Pakistani students and researcher. In 2013 the number of students in China was approximately 8000 and the number of Chinese technicians in Pakistan was about 15000 (Siddique, 2014). The establishment of Pak-China Institute in Islamabad is another most important trigger and more than 3000 student are learning Chinese language (Siddique, 2014). Furthermore Government of Pakistan sent numbers of students to China under cultural exchange program under the supervision of Higher Education Commission Pakistan.

Conclusion

China-Pakistan relations were started in 1950s. Pakistan is the first Muslim state who recognized People's Republic of China. Since the establishment of diplomatic relationship both states are enjoying all weather tested friendship. Pakistan and China are cooperated with each other in all joys and sorrows. China helped Pakistan in different wars with India like 1965, 1971 and 1999 war. Islamabad also supported Beijing in United Nations and she also supported one China policy. China also helped Pakistan to become nuclear power. China provides technological assistance and technical support to Pakistan nuclear program. China moreover provided missile technology to strengthen Pakistan defence and security. Pakistan and China jointly launched different type of tactical weapon manufacturing industries in Pakistan.

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan and People's Republic of China entered in a new era of brotherhood relationship in the initial age of the 21st century as this century is marked for regional integration. China and Pakistan signed Free Trade Agreement and Islamabad became first South Asian State that signed Free Trade Agreement with Beijing. Pakistan and China also jointly launched several other projects regarding defence and security. Pakistan also became the first country who jointly operates military drill with People's Liberation Army. Furthermore both countries are cooperating in defence, strategic, economic, social, trade, energy, and health fields since the beginning. The CPEC and JF-17 Thunder is one of the most prominent symbols of friendship. Owing to the strategic and reliable relationship of Islamabad and Beijing the US-India partnership grew up to counter Pak-China friendship. India and US signed nuclear deal with India although she is not member of any non-nuclear organization.

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