



Geopolitics of Maritime Security in the Indian Ocean: Sino-Indian rivalry and Implications on Pakistan

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ABSTRACT

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The maritime sector is considered to be one of the most neglected sectors in Pakistan. The economy is now the foundation of contemporary world politics. History tells us that those states that were fully aware of strengthening their maritime sector ruled the world. In the Indian Ocean region, competition over a sea line of communications is increasing day by day. The US tilt towards India became a driving force to strengthen collaboration between China and Pakistan. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is one of the most significant examples of strong ties between two states. China wants to enter the Middle East, along with central Asian states. China's recent mediation of a peace deal with Iran and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia serves as a significant example. The development of Pakistan's Gwadar port is one of the driving forces behind the Chinese presence in the Indian Ocean region. The US, on the other hand, wants to contain China via India. The 21st century belongs to trade and investment. This paper aims to highlight the geopolitical importance of trade-related activities via sea lines of communication. The paper also discusses the security of sea routes and their geopolitical significance in the world's security-led architecture. The research sheds light on the critical role of the maritime sector in defining current geopolitics, particularly in light of the growing rivalry over sea lines of communication.

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1.0 Introduction

Maritime security has become a vital issue in contemporary world politics. It is fundamental to national as well as human security. The paper explains conceptual understanding of all the possible aspects of maritime affairs, in particular to the Indian ocean region. States are additionally enhancing their maritime capacities to ensure their maritime advantages. Oceans containing more than 70 percent of planet earth have been the most overwhelming amphitheater of various clashes and wars over the past many years. Ocean control has had significant worldwide outcomes and the maritime framework shapes a critical indispensable commitment to policy of any country. (Harding, H. 2001). Concepts and understandings of the paper is analyzed on different parts of maritime undertakings. A large portion of literature discussed chronicled parts of maritime issues. Maritime Security of the CPEC is essential for Pakistan. This is the reason Pakistan and Chinese Naval Forces are currently upgrading their potential in terms of technology and expertise. Military investment between two states increased gradually, covering technological advancement, and joint ventures in terms of academic pursuit and exercises.

Indian Ocean is home to 65 % of global oil, 35 % of combustible gas, similarly as wellsprings of different other manufactured stock and unrefined materials situated in littoral states. It gives the shortest access to the sea for landlocked Afghanistan, Central Asian Republics, and China's western areas. Its criticalness has increased manifolds with the inception of CPEC undertaking to support Chinese imports through Pakistani ports especially that of Gwadar. (Small, A. 2015). This region is encountering a visible change with respect to three factors.

Economic rise of China

United States' turn or rebalance to Asia.

Growth of a couple of rising economies of Indian Ocean's littoral states.

The rising economies of East Asia are moving logically securing force and need to secure energy needs. This effect the sea lines of communications in the Indian Ocean, particularly Strait of Hormuz and Bab-el-Mandeb. Ahsan, S. Akhtar. (1981). These are curving up powerfully stacked down with trade ships, oil tankers and security purpose maritime power vessels. EU, China, India, United States, Japan and Australia are dependably developing their dominance and their military strength in the Indian Ocean and in different crucial positions along its edge. Slightly weaker but strategically important powers such as Pakistan, Malaysia, Singapore and South Korea are besides developing their exercises along with capabilities at the same locality. Because of not having a wide multilateral admission to ocean security in the Indian Ocean makes this power projection questionable. It is basically a fundamental security issue. In addition, different nations around there are politically unpredictable. It has generated security challenges, Banerjee, D. (1999) in the Indian Ocean, for example, robbery, smuggling etc. (MoD India (2007)

CPEC itself with its emphasis on Gwadar, has likewise offered force to oceanic collaboration among China and Pakistan. The two states wish to improve respective participation in the fields of oceanic security, pursuit and salvage, and the blue water economy. Accordingly, it would not be right to state that CPEC has the capability of accumulating key participation. This methodology fills in as key empowering influence in a quickly changing world request. It is along

these lines the need of time to move from obsolete geopolitical grudge of nineteenth and twentieth centuries to interstate vital play in 21st century. The quest for a state's national enthusiasm for the worldwide field establishes its remote arrangement. An effective remote strategy should utilize an equalization of financial, discretionary, and military apparatuses. It is national intrigue that shapes the potential outcomes of state to carry on the whole. Through a decent remote strategy approach, South Asian locality can accomplish its super advancement extends and set up into a tranquil coordinated locale. (Gourinchas, Pierre-Olivier 2023)

China's BRI in South and Central Asia and the IOR, is adding to a making contention among India and China. This idea kept to the Himalayan district where the two countries battle an outskirts war in 1962, is before long persistently maritime-centered. Some in India feel encased by China's fundamental moves in the locale while China feels undermined by its constrained capacity to hook its ocean ways. Understanding and successfully dealing with this making security dynamic might be imperative to guaranteeing territorial reliability and U.S. national interests. Khurana, G. S. (2008). Cooperation and coordination among different states demonstrate an open door for upgraded security joint effort especially with equivalently contributed vote-based systems, for example, the United States, India, Australia and Japan. While powers of patriotism and competition may expand loads, shared exchange interests and interdependencies among China and India, correspondingly as powers of local financial mix in Asia considerably more generally, can hose their contention. The United States' quality as a modifying force can also add to local soundness. Meredith, R. (2022).

1.1 Objectives of the study

Finding out how Pakistan views and execute its maritime ambitions at the Indian Ocean Region. Keeping in view of the ongoing maritime competitions, what it implies for Pakistan is the main objective of the current study. In addition, this study will look at Pakistan's shifting opportunities and risks, such as those brought on by regional proxy conflicts in particular via sea lines of communications. In this study, True potential of Indian Ocean Region would be digged as an independent variable. This study is very important because it covers the most recent Indian Oceans geopolitical events and opportunities, such as the Iranians aggressive postures, American Navy's presence in Oman waters etc. Significant challenges for Pakistan and Chinese Navy would be highlighter for better understandings of Maritime warfare's in near future. Pakistan's role as a key participant or game-changer has been examined in this study. Pakistan's contribution cannot, therefore, be disputed at any level.

2.0 Literature Review

Christine Beuger from University of Copenhagen wrote a broad paper titled as "*What is maritime security?*". It inspected basic features of Maritime Security. The paper portrayed that various experts of maritime domain have started to consolidate maritime security in their command or reframed their work in such terms. Dilemma of the contemporary world politics is that no universal accord over the significance of maritime security has been established so far.

Morgenthau in his book, "*Politics among the nations*" explains that if somebody is willing to change or reframe any society, its mandatory for them to take a look and understand the basic rules and regulations of that society that it follows. Keeping in view of argument of Morgenthau,

one can say that as per realists, laws have not been changed through centuries and the foremost and fundamental element of survival is protection of their interest irrespective of what others believe or think. At the same time realists also elaborate that survival of the states is only possible when they have the ability to control all the possible resources. It will help them to ensure their survival and also to build up their power structure and dominance economically as well as militarily. Marine success is connected with International Maritime Organization and its Maritime Safety Committee which goes about as within all-inclusive body for making guidelines and controls.

China and Pakistan are neighbors and trustworthy companions. Both are attempting their best to conceal Indian ocean region, and in the meantime, US is additionally making joint efforts with India to contend Chinese ascent and likewise to depict India as a regional power. Every one of these goals have just been clarified by pragmatists with the goal that's the reason this hypothesis is exceptionally appropriate in this exploratory work. More or less fundamental thought of the pragmatists' school of thought is that states are power hungry, a similar thing enormous forces are attempting to do in Indian Ocean region to practice their capacity. Keeping in view of all parameters regarding significance of maritime sectors of any maritime nation, this sector need not to be ignored as it has a huge potential to contribute its part for growth of GDP of respective country. (Darshana M. Baruah, Nitya Labh, and Jessica Greely 2023)

Hans. J, Morgenthau stated that, *“Whenever the term balance of Power is used without qualification, it refers to an actual state of affairs in which power is distributed among nations with approximately equality.”*

Kenneth Waltz argues that, *“Hegemony leads to balance”* When we discuss Indian ocean, this notion of balance of power is also very much applicable to this region as well. India always aspired to be a regional hegemon. At the same time interests of USA are also very much clear to this part of the sea that's why it's also trying to strengthen India by providing technology and MOU's. Recent Indo-US agreement that is Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) is one of the main examples of Indo-US nexus in the region, through which both countries can use their bases along with several other collaborations between the both states. When we witness such types of collaboration between American and Indian Navies then definitely other two regional main stake holders, China and Pakistan, have open options to collaborate with each other. Basically, Americans are trying to build up India as a regional power to contain China while China is also building up its naval strength in Indian Ocean and also South China sea. Chinese String of Pearls notion is also one of the main examples in front of us. China is building up bases in different parts of the periphery of Indian Ocean for example Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Pakistan. CPEC is also one of the major examples of Chinese and Pakistan's Collaboration in terms of rails, roads and naval collaboration. Keeping in view we can say that every state explores its way to tackle its adversary. Kenneth waltz rightly pointed out that hegemony leads to balance so this notion is applicable to Pakistan and Chinese collaboration as hegemony of India in the region is not acceptable neither to China nor to Pakistan.

Anis H. Bajrektarevic observes "Asia needs to answer itself whether the most up to date ideas for example, the OBOR/CPEC versus Indo-Pacific maritime triangling are reciprocal to its advancement or the heartland-rimland kind of perilous encounter. Asia needs a genuine multilateralism, not a prisoner circumstance of getting captured in a cross-fire". Safdar, A. (2015).

According to Professor John B. Hattendorf, it is the maritime strategy which always help any state to achieve that already planned goals. He said Maritime strategy is basically a direction of all the aspects of national power which help to materialize any nations interests at the sea. Naval

forces are no doubt one of the main stakeholders for this purpose but he again said this maritime strategy is not a purely naval preserve infect it need help and support of all other aspects and parameters of states which include diplomacy, defense of cargos in sea and many other aspects as well. In a nut shell everything should be monitored by the machinery of government including skies over the sea and even land under the sea. Saint-Mezard, I. (2005).

2.1 Hypothesis

“Increased Sino-Indian rivalry in the Indian Ocean region leads to heightened maritime security challenges in the Indian Ocean Region”

2.2 Theoretical Perspective

2.2.1 Rimland-Heartland Theories

At the core of One Belt One Road lies the formation of an economic land belt that incorporates nations on the first Silk Road through Central Asia, West Asia, Middle East and Europe, just as a Maritime gateway that interfaces China’s port facilities by means of Asian ports with the African coast, pushing up through Suez Canal into Mediterranean and from that point into Central Europe and Russia. Ikram Sehgal (2015). It has been demonstrated that up to sixty nations might be incorporated into OBOR with stops crosswise over three distinct landmasses as nations contiguous the Roads will be occupied with exchange. Aglietta, M., & Bai, G. (2012).

We are currently witnessing 21st century variant of Great Game in Spykman's Rimland. US, in its Pivot to Asia, is focusing on a considerable lot of similar nations that China has incorporated into its AIIB bank (Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank) participation and OBOR, the distinction being that China is utilizing trade routes and sea ports to broaden its impact, though United States is depending on a substantial military nearness, particularly its maritime powers, trying to contain China. Military regulation can be viable utilizing US maritime powers.

With regards to Pakistan, CPEC is frequently named a distinct advantage for unstable economy of Pakistan. (Melanie Pill 2023). The venture conveys essential importance as it guarantees to boast its economic development. Dissimilar to US aid, Chinese aid to Pakistan has offered framework and vitality extends that would fill to enhance Pakistan's economy. In spite of inexpensiveness of land, Pakistan is falling behind in availability which builds the exchange cost. Nonetheless, under the umbrella of CPEC the expense would be limited and fare impetuses expanded. Pakistan anticipates 4% of worldwide trade. The sort of toll charge, rental expenses that Pakistan will pick up is generally \$6 billion to \$8 billion by 2020.

3.0 Methodology

This study adopts a descriptive approach, delving into the multifaceted dynamics surrounding the subject matter. It embraces an exploratory research design, leveraging a comprehensive blend of primary and secondary data sources. The investigative framework involves a meticulous examination of diverse literary resources, encompassing books, articles, research papers, and journals that span both national and international domains. By synthesizing insights extracted from this extensive array of materials, the research aims to construct a nuanced understanding of the complex interplay of factors related to the Indian Ocean Region and maritime sector as a whole and its subsequent implications for Pakistan. The methodology employed for this research involves a thorough analysis of the wealth of information derived from the selected

literature.

Research method basically provides a systematic framework for conducting research. It helps researchers plan, organize, and execute their studies in a structured manner, ensuring that the research objectives are met effectively. In order to gain a comprehensive understanding of the problem, the researcher also visited several relevant institutions in Islamabad focusing on the ongoing research topic. The relevant institutions include universities, government institutions, and non-governmental organizations. Furthermore, the researcher also participated in seminars, dialogues, exhibitions and consultations that proved useful in gaining additional information for the thesis. This research work also follows a particular framework to comprehensively address five maritime security threats in Indian Ocean Region. First it starts with the explanation of the concept of the threat, and then it elaborates the nature of the problem in Indian Ocean Region. Few arguments also discuss overview of international legal frameworks regulating the threat. The research work then narrows down its discussion to examine the regional legal frameworks governing the threat in the region. Furthermore, if the international and regional legal frameworks are lacking or absent, writer also discusses other non-legally binding measures which addresses the maritime problems.

4.0 Analysis and Discussion

4.1 Global perspective of Maritime Competition

Following quite a few years of unchallenged world initiative, United States indeed faces extraordinary power rivalry, this time including two other key players. China and Russia progressively bristle under the requirements of post-World War II frameworks of global exchange, fund, and governance to a great extent made by United States and its partners, frameworks that United States has ensured and continued to economic and security advantage of its natives and residents of different countries. Both China and Russia are certifiably enhancing nature of their military while all the while acting forcefully toward neighboring nations, some of which are US settlement partners. Furthermore, the two countries are directing their concentration toward maritime activities a long way from their own coasts, tasks intended to propel national interests that are regularly in pressure with those of the United States. Kaplan, R. D. (2010). Such technique will never again get the job done in a universe of incredible power rivalry, particularly one in which forces of significant yet unequal quality is restricted. Unbalanced multi-extremity is a particularly unsteady condition, and the United States isn't adequately acted to deal with that insecurity.

The present international framework is advancing toward unbalanced multi-extremity. Tragically, United States isn't as of now arranged to oversee such an international situation. In the event that Americans need to save their country's safe and prosperous position as the world's extraordinary power, United States must start currently to get ready deliberately for what it will unavoidably confront. Else, it will at last be constrained into an inexorably set number of ugly alternatives to support its situation of administration. (Ashley J. Tellis (2012). Every state across the globe has its own set of goals which are to be achieved.

4.2 Regional Perspective of Maritime Competition

India and China are growing forces of Indo Pacific region. They are progressively coming into contact with one another for their greater influence and expansionist agendas. The connection between them is once in a while troublesome. Ongoing security relationship between these two great powers is generally unpredictable and uncertain. Not least is China's developing nearness in South Asian region and somewhere else in the IOR, this is the region where Indian state sees China to shape the key condition and framing arrangements that could be utilized against New Delhi. How India and China get along participation, conjunction, rivalry or showdown could be one of the key concer for the region in the 21st century. (Bruce Drake and Carroll Doherty (2016). Every single real power depends upon the demonstrated Great Connector that connects from the Cape of Good Hope to the Strait of Malacca.

4.3 India's aspirations in the Indian Ocean region

India has long harbored aspirations to be a main power in the Indian Ocean region. Numerous in India's leadership consider it to be the characteristic head of the region in the long haul. India has once in a while additionally taken a proprietorial competition for Naval Supremacy in the Indian Ocean. (MOD India 2015) Perspectives on the allure of barring different forces from the Indian Ocean are to some extent a guarded response to India's frontier encounter. This supports a view among numerous Indian examiners that the nearness of outside forces in India's neighborhood is basically ill-conceived that India's neighbors, particularly in South Asia, ought to depend on it as the dominating regional chief and security supplier. Keeping in view the interests and involvement of every state especially Chinese, Indian, American and all other navies have made the situation in the respective area more complex and uncertain.

4.4 Growing strategic interests of China in the Indian Ocean region

China cherishes huge security interests in the Indian Ocean, which is presently prompting an ever more noteworthy military nearness in the region. China's key worry in the Indian Ocean is the insurance of its naval exchanging courses, especially those conveying oil and gas that the Chinese economy depends upon. Beijing is aware of the fact that these exchanging courses are helpless against dangers from foes, particularly through limited 'chokepoints' in Indian Ocean through which maritime exchange must pass. As at 2012, some 40% of China's oil imports went through the tight passageway of the Persian Gulf and around 82% of China's oil imports traveled the Malacca Strait in Southeast Asia. (CRS Report 2018)

4.5 India's overlook on China and its aspirations in the IOR

Sino-Indian dynamic in the Indian Ocean is only one part in a multifaceted relationship that joins components of collaboration, concurrence, and rivalry. The dimension of exchange between them has developed significantly. China's becoming political and military nearness in South Asia and the more extensive Indian Ocean region is seen with unique doubt by India. China's developing associations with nations in the region are commonly not seen in Delhi just like a real impression of Chinese interests, however as being coordinated against India, either to enclose it or keep it wobbly. (COHEN, S. P. (2001)

China's projection of maritime power into Indian Ocean has turned into the Indian Navy's central long-haul wellspring of concern, and is presently a vital driver of India's developing security associations with United States and Australia. India sees the need to work with both Washington and Canberra to balance or defer the development of China's quality in the Indian Ocean. India's cases to an extraordinary regional security job and its perspectives on the authenticity of China's essence make prolific conditions for rivalry. This is exacerbated by another factor: an apparent basic to keep up China's vital helplessness in the Indian Ocean. Malone, D. M., & Mukherjee, R. (2010).

Not at all like different components of the key relationship where India is by and large off guard, the geology of the Indian Ocean gives extensive points of interest to India. Subsequently, and regardless of some critique despite what might be expected, Chinese maritime nearness in the region shows a reasonable military risk to India, and Indian Ocean is the one region in which India holds an unmistakable military favorable position over China. India's methodology of building its maritime abilities close Indian Ocean chokepoints includes an understood danger of blocking of China's exchanging courses. Beijing is worried that in case of a conflict between the two states on their common fringe, India may be enticed to heighten the conflict to the maritime circle, where it would have the favorable position. Kamerling, S., van der Putten, F. P., & Wetzling, T. (2014).

4.6 Chinese perspectives on India and its role in the Indian Ocean

Beijing takes a very unique view from New Delhi on India's legitimate job in the Indian Ocean region and the authenticity of China's essence there. For a start, numerous Chinese strategists see India as lacking complete national power and give it a status essentially beneath significant Asian powers, for example, Japan or Russia. This can make China less conscious towards India compared to its dealings with different forces. There is likewise an articulated asymmetry in risk discernments: India will in general see China as a significant threat, while China is significantly more centered around United States. Beijing additionally firmly opposes any recommendation that India has any directly to limit China's connections in the Indian Ocean region or that India ought to be some way or another perceived as having a range of authority in the Indian Ocean region. (Booth, K. (1984).

There is a huge hazard that varying points of view over status and desires could plummet into long haul key contention between the two nations that could destabilize the entire Indian Ocean region. China presently appears to be determined to squeezing ahead with its arrangements in the Indian Ocean without endeavoring to coopt India as an accomplice. In any case, over the long haul it might think that it's hard to make a great geostrategic condition in the Indian Ocean contrary to India. As far as concerns its, India will probably look to keep up what key favorable circumstances it has over China in the region: including building up its maritime and airpower in the region in participation with accomplices, for example, the United States, Australia, Japan and France.

4.7 India-China strategic competition and IOR

Rivalry among India and China is turning into an expanding factor in regional political

elements in South Asian states, for insistence, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh just as a few island states in the Indian Ocean, for example, the Maldives. Some are attempting to exploit rivalry to extract economic, political and military advantages from one or the two sides. (Kuan Chen, J.S Uppal (1971). Countries like Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Maldives try to play China and India off against one another to draw in greater interest in real framework ventures. In any case, rivalry among China and India can likewise prompt political flimsiness in numerous nations. (Namita Bhandare (2005)

4.8 China-India Great Power Competition in the IOR

Indian Ocean Region is the site of increasing tug of war for exercising their dominance between China and India. This contention has basic ramifications for American dynamic affiliations have articulated the making significance of the Indo-Pacific area to American security and monetary technique. Office of the Secretary of Defense, (2013) In December 2017, according to national security strategy of US, it is stated that "A geopolitical test among free and unforgiving dreams of world interest is going on in Indo-Pacific district." Vaughn, B. (2018).

China is one of the main players of international community. Particularly It can never be ignored in Indian Ocean despite the fact that Indo-US nexus in this region is expanding day by day. China has always tried its level best to maintain the balance of power in this region. Keeping in view the involvement of US and India in this region, China has also started to build up cooperation with different states of this region just to counter Indo-US nexus for example China has started to build up its deep cooperation not only with Pakistan but also with Sri Lanka, Burma (Myanmar), and Djibouti as well. Rivalry among China and India is scrambled toward a huge degree by their fiscal ascension and the fast related headway in seaborne exchange and imported vitality, a lot of which dares to all aspects of the Indian Ocean. There is clearly another major spotlight on the maritime and littoral areas that are contiguous the ocean ways that interface the vitality rich Persian Gulf with the centrality subordinate economies of Asia. (Bhutta, N., & Ali, A. (2023)

Any disrupting impact of this supply would almost certainly be negative to the United States' and the world's economy. China's reliance on seaborne exchange and imported centrality, and the significant shortcoming this location, has been named China's "Malacca issue" after the Strait of Malacca' Rodrigue, J. P. (2004) the key crucial cover points through which an expansive level of China's exchange and vitality streams. An enormous bit of the action related with China's Belt and Road Initiative can be seen as an endeavor by China to restrict its basic vulnerabilities by isolating its exchange and noteworthiness courses while in like way redesigning its political impact through broadened exchange and framework speculations. Lou, C. (2013, October).

4.9 Sino-Indian Rivalry in IOR

China's economic and military power has been developing essentially and its military modernization attempts extended China's ability. China's making maritime limit, including "limits against submarines, its quickly making limits in fields, for example, antagonistic to dispatch rockets, present day surface warriors, submarines assignments and longer-range affiliations," has colossal repercussions for India. For quite a while, United States has wanted to help enhancement of Indian power. (Farndon, J. (2007). On the uncertainty that New Delhi and Washington share a typical vitality for adjusting Chinese authority in Asia,

United States has endeavored to fortify India as a stabilizer to China. Gandhi, P. J. (Ed.). (2007). China is pushing itself to expand its impact and test West, India, and a measure based worldwide interest, especially in the Indo-Pacific locale. One strategy for doing everything considered is China's utilization of its geo-money related use, which is extended through its exchange and hypothesis relationship at present being made through its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). As indicated by one ace the genuinely pushed One Belt, One Road, Tewari, M. (2017). development is, to some degree, an endeavor to grow new markets for China transversely over Eurasia with framework interfaces crosswise over focal and south Asia towards Europe and Africa. China's creation energy for Eurasia has essential key outcomes. Shah, S. K. (2015)

India is concerned that China is working its Hegemonic designs against India that have clear military implications. A total need of the BRI activity is to change the European and Asian landmass into a monetary and fundamental area that will beat the Euro-Atlantic region as a whole. China-India competition in Indian Ocean Region is shaped by plethora of elements such as Chinese association with India's adversary, Pakistan; through the CPEC is a key undertaking of the Chinese BRI Initiative.

- a. China's goal, exchange, experience and crucial advancements in Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nepal, and SL.
- b. China's expansionist model in maritime and military closeness in Indian Ocean Region that includes newly established and emerging power equation at Djibouti also as broadened maritime vicinity in the IOR.
- c. India's refusal of joining China's BRI over power concerns identified with CPEC connects in J&K region.
- d. India's economic and trade dependence on China.
- e. The two countries' certainly exceptional political structures in the world.

4.10 Emerging Implications of China-India Rivalry

This contention is never again for the most part constrained to the Sino-India outskirts in the Himalayan geographic district, in any case that locale, as well, has seen an augmentation in strains as showed up by the standoff at Doklam. China-India rivalry, (Berlin, D. L. (2006). is wandering into the Indian Ocean district and consequently is more maritime-centered than as of now. This can gain further progress of maritime resources on the contrary sides that could have proposition for U.S. maritime acquirement and territorial position. Geographic enhancement of basic test among China and India is broadening central linkages between East Asia and South Asia and the Indian Ocean, making the more expansive Indo-Pacific area powerfully related. India and China have an expanding vision of their place on the planet. (Jin, X., Li, D. D., & Wu, S. (2016).

4.11 Challenges and Options for Pakistan:

Given threatening vibe toward India is at the point of convergence of the key relationship among Pakistan and China, which has been a solid relationship for a huge long time and which has tangled Indian States special relations with the two countries. This association is Finance based, Defence related, and geopolitical in nature. Pakistan can never be ignored with regards to Beijing's strategies to build up its BRI project and develop its impact transversely over South Asian region

and Indo-Pacific as a whole as well. China's "all weather friendship" offers the probability of much-required undertaking and upgrade and goes about as a basic balancer in Pakistan's full association with India. Pakistan gets 30% of China's arms passes on. (Padder, S. (2018).

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (Downs, E. (2019). is a flagship of China's Belt and Road development and was activated in 2015. China's represented focal points in CPEC experiences were surveyed by some to be around \$46 billion in 2016. Many professionals are implausible of such monster measures and have seen that many declared activities in the past have missed the mark concerning needs. In that limit, there is an abnormal condition of lack of protection over the correct extent of undertaking included, which might be totally not really uncovered. Gehlot, N. S., & Satsangi, A. (2004)¹ The China Pak Investment Corporation portrays CPEC in the running with way: CPEC wants to enhance Pakistani foundation and to develop the money related and political ties among China and Pakistan. CPEC will wrap up being a solid sewing factor among China and Pakistan who share a past stacked up with sensible key relations, over versatile campaign of standard vitality, stretching out more than six decades. CPEC is China's most noticeable craze spend on fiscal movement in another nation to date.

5.0 Discussion and Conclusion

Pakistan is a key stakeholder in South Asian Region. IOR has huge natural resources because of which international players are trying to build up their own dominance in the region. Particularly US and China are considered to be the strategic competitors in this region. Secondly the geographical location and possessing of most critical choke points in Indian ocean also increase its significance manifolds. Pakistan also has stakes in the region being referred to especially the Arabian Sea just as bordering stifle focuses. With history of conflicts and uncertain issues, harmony is fantasy excessively far. India's possessiveness of Kashmir is a characteristic articulation of the regional premises of its vital culture communicated all things considered occasions and once more. (Jahangir, A., & Anis, R. (2016). Keeping in view all such historical facts and by birth enmity with India compelled Pakistan to take some steps not only for its survival but at the same time to enhance its trade with the rest of the world for a better and stable economy.

China is Pakistan's dearest friend and a trustworthy vital partner. One must believe that Its not mandatory for China to help out and push Pakistan's interests only. The fact is China is trying to pursue or fulfill its global interests for which it needs Pakistan's support as well. This infers would more worried about its global stakes than helping to Pakistani interests. India is attempting to constrain Pakistan's ties with US and China through its impact. Being aware of this reality, it is considerably progressively imperative to rethink and enhances ties with these nations by arguing own case at all dimensions. Jacobs, A., & Perlez, J. (2017).

Mustansar Abbas: Problem Identification and Theoretical Framework

Saqib Hussain: Data Analysis, Supervision and Drafting

Sultan Salah-ud-Din: Literature Search, Methodology, and Drafting

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