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PIVOT

Quarterly Magazine of Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad

SECURING ECONOMIC FUTURE



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Institute of Strategic Studies
Islamabad



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PIVOT

Quarterly Magazine of Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad

'Pakistan is the **PIVOT** of the world, placed on the frontier on which the future position of the world revolves.' Quaid-i-Azam
Mohammad Ali Jinnah, January 1948

Chief Editor's Note



The economic security is characterized by the institutional transformation of a state's economy. New trends and patterns that determine institutional economic modernization have been an essential aspect of economic security. At the present, there are new conceptual approaches to ways which can protect the economic interests of a state, region, enterprise, public and business sectors.

Pakistan's National Security Policy, 2022-2026, which was made public on January 14, 2022, places 'Economic Security' as the core element of its national security vision. This is the first time any NSP in Pakistan has taken a comprehensive approach to security. The policy, which is described as an umbrella document for various sectoral policies, provides strategic guidance for action in priority areas, while referring to opportunities and challenges. The strategy offered is sustainable and inclusive economic growth to expand the national resource cluster, so that more resources can be provided to meet the requirements of defence and other sectors, without having to alter the spending pattern.

Pakistan's socio-economic indicators are low. While socio-economic indicators in a country focus on sustainable wellbeing of the individual, the family, or society as a whole, in Pakistan all these domains have been neglected in the past several decades. Social and economic policies which should have been framed to uplift the population's standard of living through economic opportunities and investment by the government were not correctly implemented. It aims to contribute to Pakistan's development, reaping the benefits of interconnectivity and regional integration which represents one of Pakistan's foremost foreign policy goals.

The criteria of economic security remain constant, as contributing to the protection of the national economy and the population. However, factors and circumstances of economic security are constantly changing, reflecting the transformation processes of the Pakistani economy, which leads to the emergence of new challenges in the socio-economic system development.

It is encouraging that the NSP has created a discourse in Pakistan where common citizens are questioning the government about their rightful place in the National Security Policy. The country's security imperatives in the next decade will be motivated by the need to realise its economic potential while ensuring national cohesion, territorial integrity, internal security and citizen welfare.

Talat

Dr. Talat Shabbir

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This Issue





Connectivity for Development and Growth

By Ambassador Naghmana A. Hashmi

Geographical isolation has conventionally been seen as the main hindrance to economic progress and development. Connectivity has therefore, emerged as a defining feature of the modern economy and a leading trend of the 21st century which is reflected in the increasing demand for resources to be invested in linking communities, economies and countries.

The term “connectivity” has traditionally been described as a concept that consists of both ‘hard’ and ‘soft’ aspects. Hard connectivity refers to the physical infrastructure that provides access such as roads, bridges and railways; while soft connectivity refers to the facilitating policies that complement the physical infrastructure, such as efficient customs procedures, effective enforcement of laws, and regulations and non-tariff measures.

In order to unlock the potential of closely interlinked production networks and value chains, a more comprehensive perspective on connectivity has emerged in

recent years. This new type of connectivity is not sector specific but is envisaged as part of an integrated whole, encompassing the development of corridors of prosperity through networks of trade, transport, Information Communication Technology (ICT) energy, people, and technology. The concept is seen as an important pillar of economic development and regional integration.

CONNECTIVITY IS NOW CONSIDERED A CORNERSTONE OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION AND HAS BECOME A KEY PRIORITY PARTICULARLY FOR THE COUNTRIES OF ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Connectivity is now considered a cornerstone of regional economic cooperation and integration and has become a key priority particularly for the countries of Asia and the Pacific. In Asia The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is an example of the benefits of connectivity while in Europe we see

the European Union (EU) benefitting through the application of both soft and hard aspects of connectivity. Improving the flow of people, goods and services allows for greater efficiency in the distribution of resources. Creating better access to larger markets also increases trade and production, encouraging the growth of local economies. Ease of movement lowers transport costs and increases supply reliability, strengthening a region’s comparative advantages. Reduced costs also encourages the creation of stronger production networks, which in turn, could drive trade and investment. Improving connectivity is thus essential for the region’s prosperity, continued growth and, most importantly, poverty reduction. Connectivity is therefore, high on the policy agenda of most countries and global development and financial institutions.

During the last global financial crisis, many developed economies implemented several types of fiscal incentives plans to stimulate demand and recover from depression including investment in various connectivity projects. In addition to the short-term impact of investments in connectivity



President Xi Jinping’s visionary Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) aims at enhancing regional and international connectivity and represents a win-win model of international cooperation providing new opportunities for economic rejuvenation and prosperity of all countries. As a signature project of BRI, the fast development of China Pakistan Economic Corridor has played a significant role in the Belt and Road cooperation. CPEC is the distinctive symbol of this enduring friendship and occupies a central position in the development agenda of Pakistan. CPEC is a long-term bilateral economic project covering a vast array of short, medium and long-term projects.

Pakistan is situated at the nexus of the four most dynamic regions of the world - China, South and South-East Asia, the Middle East, and Central Asia. Through CPEC Pakistan and China should aim at establishing an efficient and integrated system of communications and transport, in order for both to benefit from and contribute to the regional dynamism. Key related targets should be reduction in transportation costs, safety in mobility, effective connectivity between rural areas and markets/urban centers, inter-provincial high-speed connectivity, integrated road/rail networks between economic hubs (including air, sea and dry ports), high-capacity transportation corridors connecting major regional partners and exponential growth in exports.

infrastructure, there are also medium and long-term effects in strengthening the foundation for future economic growth, by making labor markets more efficient and productive. Supply Chain Efficiency and Global Value Chains are a defining characteristic of the 21st century economy. They have totally transformed the links between firms and countries and redefined the relationships between trade and competitiveness. The growth of GVCs has been in tandem with improvements in transportation and communications technologies, which have allowed the fragmentation of production in tasks in different locations.

Connectivity has greatly increased the prospects of cooperation between countries, which in turn has facilitated trade and economic growth. Enhanced global connectivity and shrinking trade and transport costs has grown in tandem with a proliferation of regional and multilateral trade agreements. This is in part due to a recognition that whereas distance and geography are fixed, connectivity and logistics performance are subject to change through policymaking in individual countries.

CPEC has immense strategic importance for Pakistan and has already helped Pakistan to lay a strong infrastructure for subsequent development of industry, agriculture and human resource. The ever-increasing economic and trade integration between Pakistan and China has made our two economies increasingly inter-dependent especially in the context of CPEC. With China Pakistan Economic Corridor and Belt & Road Initiative, and China have started a new chapter of friendship that has great potential to contribute to regionalism. Together, we envisage creating an enabling environment for collective prosperity to promote regional economic integration and cooperation with this mega-project.

With the first phase of CPEC comprising of major infrastructure and energy projects completed, the focus has rightly shifted to the second phase. This includes the development of Special Economic Zones, Sustainable development, poverty alleviation, agriculture, health care and knowledge.

THE EVER-INCREASING ECONOMIC AND TRADE INTEGRATION BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND CHINA HAS MADE OUR TWO ECONOMIES INCREASINGLY INTER-DEPENDENT ESPECIALLY IN THE CONTEXT OF CPEC

CPEC is an integral part of BRI and is its flagship project. It is inspired by President Xi’s vision of regional connectivity and people-centric development model which fully resonates with Prime Minister Imran Khan’s vision of “Naya Pakistan”, who firmly believes that CPEC is a “game-changer” not only for Pakistan but the entire region. Connecting Gwadar Port to China’s Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, through a network of highways, railways and pipelines to transport goods, technology, oil and gas, presents enormous opportunities for people from Gwadar to Kashgar ■



The writer is former Ambassador of Pakistan to China.



RECOGNIZING CHINA AS WORLD'S LARGEST DEMOCRACY

By Wen Zongduo

The United States stunned the world on December 9-10, 2021 by staging a political farce that twisted democratic values and divided the world by cobbling together a so-called Summit for Democracy.

AGAIN AT THE INFAMOUS GATHERING THAT MARKS "WITH ME" OR "AGAINST ME" US LINE OF FOREIGN POLICY, US POLITICIANS AND US-LED MEDIA DO NOT HESITATE IN LABELING CHINA AND RUSSIA AS "AUTOCRACIES" AND THE US AND SOME ALLIES AS "DEMOCRACIES"

For years from dying cries of "I can't breathe" by Black people to Capitol insurrection on Jan 6, 2021

that sent fears to voters, US has turned democracy into a political struggle that has split the American society. Instead of curing its own ills, the White House sought to split countries of the world.

Again at the infamous gathering that marks "with me" or "against me" US line of foreign policy, US politicians and US-led media do not hesitate in labeling China and Russia as "autocracies" and the US and some allies as "democracies".

Such polarized categorization, instead of recognizing China as the world's largest and most substantial democracy, disregards history, denies facts and denotes hegemonic motives.

Democracy has been a pursuit of humanity for centuries. Ironically, during the post-World War II era, Western powers shied away from real democracy. The proposal of Soviet-led nations to replace "democratic



THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF Human Rights

Recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world.

Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind and the self-respect of the human race, and whereas the United Nations have affirmed in its Charter the faith of all in the rights of man, and whereas the Charter of the United Nations contains a commitment to promote and encourage the realization of human rights, and whereas the rights and freedoms set forth in the Declaration are essential to the full realization of this pledge.

Article 1: All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

Article 2: Everyone has the right to be recognized as an individual before the law.

Article 3: Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

Article 4: No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery or servitude shall be prohibited in all their forms.

Article 5: No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Article 6: Everyone has the right to be recognized as a person before the law.

Article 7: All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal treatment before the law.

Article 8: Everyone has the right to an effective and just remedy through national and international law in the event and scope of the rights set forth in this Declaration.

Article 9: No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

Article 10: Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal in the determination of his rights and obligations.

Article 11: Everyone has the right to a fair and public trial by an independent and impartial tribunal.

Article 12: No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

Article 13: Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state.

Article 14: Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

Article 15: Everyone has the right to a nationality.

Article 16: Everyone has the right to marry and to found a family, which is the basis of the peace and well-being of the world.

Article 17: Everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others.

Article 18: Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief.

Article 19: Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without restriction and to receive and impart information and ideas without any interference by public authorities, by private individuals or by any State, regardless of frontiers.

Article 20: Everyone has the right to peaceful assembly and to associate with others in the enjoyment of the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration.

Article 21: Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.

Article 22: Everyone has the right to social security.

Article 23: Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment.

Article 24: Everyone has the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay.

Article 25: Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing, medical care and social services, and the right to education.

Article 26: Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and vocational education shall be made generally accessible and higher education shall be open to all on the basis of merit.

Article 27: Everyone has the right to the free enjoyment of his cultural life, to take part in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in the scientific advancement and its benefits.

Article 28: Everyone has the right to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized.

Article 29: Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible.

Article 30: Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as authorizing any State, group or individual to engage in any activity aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth herein, or at their limitation by any means whatsoever.



societies” with “democratic states” in a 1948 United Nations draft of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was rejected by Western countries.

As overseas Chinese scholar Wen Yang noted, the US and the United Kingdom were only categorized as “democratic societies”, while socialist countries were deemed “democratic states”.

Part of the reason is that socialist countries adopted public ownership, and the US-lauded universal suffrage progressed slowly. Universal suffrage was not implemented in the last of the UK’s territories until 1968. The US did not achieve complete universal suffrage until 1965. In addition, throughout the history of US and UK, winners of presidential or parliamentary elections generally rounded support by an absolute minority of eligible voters.

CHINESE DEMOCRACY HAS COMBINED WESTERN ELECTION MERITS WITH SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF EXTENSIVE CONSULTATION AND DEMOCRATIC CENTRALISM, WHICH MAKES IT DISTINCTIVELY EFFECTIVE IN GOVERNANCE

In the November election 2020, Joe Biden collected 306 Electoral College votes to claim the US presidency after winning 81.28 million votes. Yet that number was 51.3 percent of the ballots, or roughly one-third of the around 239.2 million eligible US voters in 2020.

In comparison, in Russia’s direct presidential election in 2018, Vladimir Putin won 76.69 percent of all votes, with a turnout rate of 67 percent.

China, based on its long tradition of upholding the people as the base of governance, has been practicing and improving its whole-process of people’s democracy under the leadership of the Communist Party of China.

In 2013, Xi Jinping was overwhelmingly elected president of the country at the 1st plenary session of the 12th National People’s Congress, similar to his election as top leader of the Communist Party of China in late 2012.

The CPC went through a long process of democratic consultations that saw 59 inspection groups working from July 2011 to June 2012 across the country in finalizing 727 candidates for members and alternate members of the CPC Central Committee from thousands of nominees, according to People’s Daily. Altogether 376 members and alternate members of the committee were elected at the 18th CPC National Congress, which voted in favor of Xi as General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee in November 2012.

Unlike leaders in US-led Group of Seven who constantly struggle for approval ratings, the Chinese leadership with Xi at its core has enjoyed very high popularity, as several surveys by US-based agencies themselves have shown.

Factually, democracy is rule by the people, as Sterling Professor Emeritus Robert A. Dahl of Yale University has declared. Dahl raises seven fundamental questions related to the principles, including the appropriate unit or association, what constitutes a majority, how citizens govern and whose views prevail when citizens are divided.

In China, the “units” include the people’s congress at national, provincial, city and county levels, whose deputies are elected by voters directly at the basic level by universal suffrage and indirectly at upper levels, supplemented by people’s political consultative conferences which exercise consultative democracy on decision-making and supervision. Through these units and mechanisms, China is run by the people and the government centers that work to serve people.

In practice, the vast majority of farmers, workers, soldiers, academics, businesspeople and students interact freely with their representatives, as well as political advisers and officials from different parties and groups, ensuring effective participation throughout the processes related to public affairs. When citizens are divided, consultation and centralistic decision making are enabled to build consensus.

China is often accused of a “one-party” rule. However, that party, the CPC, is unlike any Western parties which indeed represent small “parts” of the society. With over 95 million members, the CPC



not only is dedicated to serving all the people, but has won lasting consent of most people since it took power in 1949, and always observed democratic governance in alliance with about 10 smaller parties.

Chinese democracy has combined Western election merits with special characteristics of extensive consultation and democratic centralism, which makes it distinctively effective in governance.

Critics in the West may argue that the Chinese supreme power does not engage in “freely contested” elections as in the US. Yet no election in the US can be free from the influence of money, especially since the US Supreme Court ruled in 2010 that corporations, unions and other organizations have the right to spend as much money as they want to influence federal elections.

LABELING CHINA AS AN “AUTOCRACY” OR “AUTHORITARIAN REGIME” SUITS WARMONGERS WHO ARE EAGER TO DEFAME CHINA AND LAMBASTE ITS RISE. THE RECENT DRUMMING OF US AND AUSTRALIAN MEDIA ABOUT “WAR OVER TAIWAN” FITS INTO THEIR ILL DESIGNS. SUCH ACTS ENDANGER COMMON WISHES FOR PEACE AND PROSPERITY, AND HARMS HUMAN UNITY

Worse, many of the voters in today’s so-called “democracies” often find no satisfactory candidates available and must choose between the bad and the worse.



Volunteers explain election formalities to villagers in mountains of Tuankou town, suburban Hangzhou of East China during a direct election for deputies to grassroots-level people's congresses on Dec 14. (Photo by XU YU of XINHUA)

Free contest has never been the only criterion for true democracy since Aristotle’s era. When English philosopher John Locke stressed in the late 17th century that the only legitimate form of government is that based on “the consent of the governed”, he provided little guidance to the form of majority representation.

In reality, just as countries find varied solutions to the problem, democracy itself assumes diversified forms. China has been pursuing democracy and improving its own democratic system since the CPC’s birth in 1921, and saw the borrowing of US democratic formulas fail tragically before shaping its own.

If democracy within a nation is to respect one’s choice of a national leader or representatives, democracy among nations should prioritize mutual respect for each country’s own development path as chosen by its people.

As a country that feels no qualms about intervening in the internal affairs of other countries or practicing long-arm jurisdictions so it can divide the world for its own narrow ends, the US should repent and make up for disasters inflicted upon the rest of the world under its disguise of spreading “democracy”.

While Tunisia-started “Arab Spring” soon faded into “Arab Winter”, US-orchestrated “color revolutions” in Europe, Asia and Africa are themselves anti-democratic because of their depriving legitimate choices of others, not to mention the thousands of deaths resulted from the turmoil, toppled governments and ruined homelands.

This time the US plays the old trick of “friend or foe” again by singling out China and Russia as other than “democracies”, though more people in the world realize that the intentional polarization of countries into so-called “democracies” and “autocracies” is more than anti-democratic. Today its promotion can serve as nothing but an invidious excuse to create enemies in order for the US to maintain its military and economic dominance over others.

Indeed, labeling China as an “autocracy” or “authoritarian regime” suits warmongers who are eager to defame China and lambaste its rise. The recent drumming of US and Australian media about “war over Taiwan” fits into their ill designs. Such acts endanger common wishes for peace and prosperity, and harms human unity.

If the US really wants to return to the track of true democracy, it can take one small step by acknowledging China as the largest democracy of the world, and showcase the diversity of democracy to global community in accordance with each country’s needs ■



The writer is a Hong-Kong based senior journalist with China Daily, Asia Pacific.

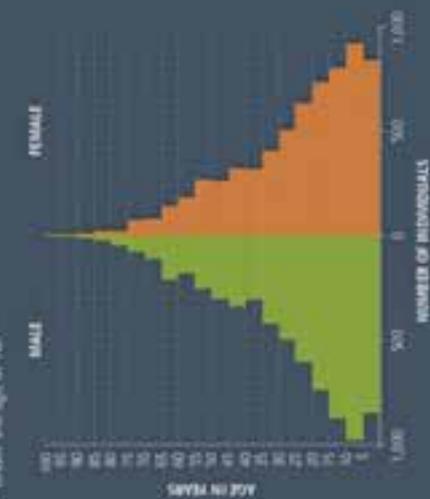
IN NUMBERS

Pakistan: The Young and the Restless

62% of Pakistanis live in rural areas, where poverty is a major concern. A new survey of rural Pakistan shows the urgency of improving people's well-being and expanding their opportunities for a better life—and makes clear how challenging it will be to do so.

Baby Boom

More than 25% of the rural population in the three provinces is under the age of 10.



Literacy Gender Gap

All three provinces have a large gender gap in literacy rates.



About the Survey

TIME FRAME: 2011-2012

LOCATION: Rural Punjab and Sindh provinces

CONDUCTED BY: The Pakistan Business Council (PBC)

DATA FROM: 2,000 households/10,000 people

Taking a Hit

Most households experienced some type of shock in the two years preceding the survey, and most of them had no coping strategies for responding to these shocks.



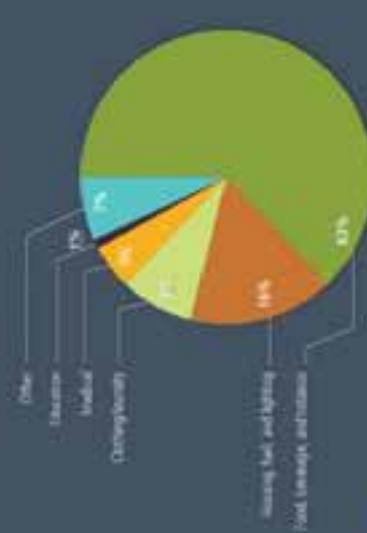
School Enrollment

Among children aged 5-14, 61% of boys and 46% of girls are enrolled in school. Poverty and security concerns about sending daughters to school were cited as the main reasons for not enrolling children in school. Only 48% of individuals in Pakistan have ever attended school.



Tight Budgets

Given the large share that households spend on basics like food and housing, there's little money left for education.



INSIGHTS

Published by the Pakistan Business Council (PBC) in 2012

Infographic

A Mixed Bag of Village Services

The availability of basic public services and the level of development in a village. In a survey of 76 selected villages, availability of services varied tremendously. Although nearly all villages were electrified, daily power outages of 3-8 hours were common.



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EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES IN THE ERA OF SURVEILLANCE CAPITALISM

By Muhammad Umar Baloch

Technology has a profound impact on human life and has an important role to play in political, social, environmental, and economic domains. New technologies contain block chain and are described as drones, tomorrow's airspace, precision medicine, digital trade, cross border data flows, fourth industrial revolution for planet, autonomous and urban mobility, Internet of Things (IoT) and connected devices, Artificial Intelligence (AI) as well as Machine Learning.

Next generation technologies are now an integral part of current globalized era and are going to shape the globe into Robotics, Synthetic Biology and Genetics, Computational Science, Cloud and Big Data Analytics, Artificial and Augmented Reality, Nano-technology, Tele-Everything, the Semantic Web, Quantum computing, Tele-Presence, Holographic, Intelligence augmentation and Collective Intelligence, 3D/4D Printing of Materials, Drones, Driverless Cars (and other autonomous vehicles) and Conscious-Technology at large.

THE DOMESTIC AND BUSINESS LIFESTYLE HAS TRANSFORMED INTO EMERGING TECHNOLOGICAL SUPPORT. CAPITALISING MORE ON TECHNOLOGIES, THE INTERNET OF THINGS IS THE NEXT FRONTIER IN DIGITAL ARENA

These technologies revolve around the digital processes and their impact on businesses as well as personal space. It is a known fact that people are always on the go, nowadays, mobile phone has become a necessity and inevitable gadget. The unique smart phone or mobile experience is leading us to the development of portable

products; those may be related to all fields of life.

The domestic and business lifestyle has transformed into emerging technological support. Capitalising more on technologies, the Internet of Things is the next frontier in digital arena. It includes machine learning, Artificial Intelligence and 5G internet to fuel this lifestyle which learns and predicts the human behaviour as well. Mobile industry is nearing 100% penetration in several countries worldwide, making digitally-savvy users and the demand at a constant increase.

To offer just the right services at the right time and price, cellular companies are leveraging big data technologies to analyse communication pattern data to better understand the user's habits and predict their requirements. Integrating the different sources of data for personalized use has now become a common practice in the digital world. Restoring people's confidence in themselves and in one another is a necessary precursor in restoring investor or public confidence regardless of any field of life. Organizations need to be inspired and empowered to take innovative steps that could renew profitability in the long run.

The world is mostly urbanized as the urban population was 29% earlier, in the 1950s, which has reached to 50% after globalization, and is expected to reach 65% by 2030. The new technologies are paving way for the vast applicability and adaptability of technologies in all walks of life. In the next 20 years, the humans are expected to see more changes than that during the last two millennia in terms of development, digitization and advancement in technological application. Technology is exponential,

whereas, humans are not. The recent 5G usage scenario is going to add enhanced mobile broadband, massive machine type communications and ultra-reliable and low latency communications.

Furthermore, prediction in digital age means predicting our behaviour based on our digital experience. Data analysis is also used in order to gather the behavioural assessment, which is being used in marketing, targeted advertising and for similar operations. This creates a kind of inevitability of new economic activity in terms of the usage of these platforms of technology. The future is all about prediction and equipment power.

There is no awareness against the surveillance capitalism, because those capitalizing are lobbying against it as they know our data is like their fuel that runs big corporations. Surveillance capitalism feeds on every aspect of human experience; a behavioural surplus, which allows business entities and companies to make profit from the data. In short, it is a type of capitalism that feeds on our data, we mostly generate while surfing on the web. Thus, the technology giants are spending billions against it to prevent this concept from getting legislated, by portraying this concept as too complex. By the year 2025, 'Generation Z' will account for 45% of total world population. Owing to the new generation of storage chips, massive amounts of data is being processed and stored, which is then used for warfare.

The surveillance capitalism is basically a predator that is feeding on us without our intention and knowledge. The future is expected to be very vulnerable in terms of data

protection and privacy in this scenario. Regarding the use of AI and other technologies for media manipulation, it can be said that fake news is a real challenge for government and governance as a whole where the concept of e-governance is at stake. Low societal and political uniformity, paired with limited resources and weak civil society institutions leads to policy problems in the long run as part of the data and information warfare. Digital Surveillance is, therefore, the future powered for the one who possesses it over the others and 'Technology Giants' are after this from quite a long time.

IT IS PERTINENT TO MENTION THAT PAKISTAN'S FUTURE DEPENDS ON 'CHOICES' THAT WE FORESEE TODAY AND THE DECISIONS WE MAKE FOR A BETTER TOMORROW. DATA IS THE NEW OIL; AI IS THE NEW ELECTRICITY

In short, a psychological turnaround is required to be executed in all public or private organizations of the country to reorient and establish focused approach with a makeshift of emerging technologies to work together for the advancement and betterment of the country. In my opinion, anyone who wants to accomplish great things; the greatness must be reflected in the strategies, planning and implementation. Hence, regardless of what the objective is, the path to success must begin by adopting the right mindset and direction. Moreover, the public private corporations will meddle with networks and the information they might hold for transit or share; the more this will raise concerns over institutional

and individual privacy.

In terms of national power and its elements, in this age of digitalization and IT advancements, the major components include; infrastructural capability, conventional capability, capital resources, external constraints, enterprises, strategy resources, physical resources and technology. The leadership and anticipatory governance includes a mechanism that emphasizes on foresight, precautionary approach, proactive policy interventions, adaptive management, pursuit of resilience and sustainability along with holistic system approach. Furthermore, the defence capability is the net accumulative of strategic resources and conversion which turns into combat ability. National performance is determined by external constraints, infrastructural capacity and ideational resources while these are inter-linked with national resources consisting of technology, enterprise, social capital resources and physical resources.

It is pertinent to mention that Pakistan's future depends on 'choices' that we foresee today and the decisions we make for a better tomorrow. Data is the new oil; AI is the new electricity. Elements of National Power include infrastructural capability, conversion capability, financial capital resources, external constraints, enterprise, strategy resources and physical resources technology ■



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PAKISTAN AND KAZAKHSTAN

An Unending Relationship

By Muhammad Ali Baig and Ashiq e Rasool



Who benefits from the instability and turmoil in Kazakhstan? This a million-dollar question which just cannot be answered in simple terms, devoid of strategic implications. However, according to Prussian General Carl von Clausewitz, the strategy is very simple, yet very complex to understand and implement. The same logic can be applied in answering this question. There is a general consensus among political scientists that International Relations are now and have always been dynamic and this ever-changing nature of such a phenomenon makes it complex. This complexity of international relations is exactly what we have witnessed in

today's Kazakhstan, where a nation in its almost thirty-one years of history called a multi-national peacekeeping force to quell what they called the saboteurs and "foreign terrorists."

Since its independence from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) in December 1991, Pakistan and Kazakhstan have maintained cordial diplomatic relations. In fact, Pakistan was among the very first ones to recognise Kazakhstan and establish bilateral relations. Since that time onwards, both countries are on good terms and continue to contribute towards each other and for the betterment of the region.

SINCE ITS INDEPENDENCE FROM THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS (USSR) IN DECEMBER 1991, PAKISTAN AND KAZAKHSTAN HAVE MAINTAINED CORDIAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. IN FACT, PAKISTAN WAS AMONG THE VERY FIRST ONES TO RECOGNISE KAZAKHSTAN AND ESTABLISH BILATERAL RELATIONS

Geographically, Kazakhstan is the largest landlocked country in the world with considerable hydrocarbon and mineral

resources. It conducts trade with the outside world via the Caspian Sea, as it shares considerable boundary with that. However, it has a population of less than twenty million people with almost an average of six people living per square kilometre. With such a huge geography and relatively little population, Kazakhstan's future depends on foreign skilled people and labour.

The average Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita income of Kazakh people is around 10,000 US Dollars. It is worth noting that China's GDP per capita income is around 10,500 US Dollars. This comparison means that at large, Kazakhstan is not a poor or a low-income country. The recent rise in fuel prices of liquified petroleum gas resulted in an unprecedented uprising and subsequent protests during the past few weeks.

Following the untoward situation, being a member of the Collective Security Treaty Organization



(CSTO), the Kazakh leadership requested the deployment of peacekeeping troops. The Collective Security Treaty Organization agreed to deploy multi-national troops on January 5, 2022, and the next day the troops arrived. The deployment of Collective Security Treaty Organization troops in Kazakhstan made headlines in the Western newspapers and it was feared

unnecessarily that Kazakhstan was destined to meet the fate of Ukraine.

ACCORDING TO A REPORT PUBLISHED ON JANUARY 12 THIS YEAR BY PAKISTAN'S ENGLISH-LANGUAGE DAILY NEWSPAPER PAKISTAN OBSERVER, KAZAKHSTAN IS THE "LINCHPIN OF CHINA'S BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE." IT IS TO BE REMEMBERED HERE THAT CHINESE PRESIDENT XI JINPING UNVEILED BRI IN SEPTEMBER 2013 DURING HIS VISIT TO ASTANA IN KAZAKHSTAN

On January 9, The Times of Israel cited the United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken who speculated that "It's hard to get Russians to leave once they're in your home." Blinken could be right, but recent history reveals that America invaded and entered Afghanistan in October 2001 in the name of removing Taliban from power and left after two decades in August 2021 by signing a peace treaty with the Taliban.

Kazakhstan and Pakistan are important partners of China-led Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). According to a report published on January 12 this year by Pakistan's English-language daily newspaper Pakistan Observer, Kazakhstan is the "linchpin of China's Belt and Road Initiative." It is to be remembered here that Chinese President Xi Jinping unveiled BRI in September 2013 during his visit to Astana in Kazakhstan.

The recent protests in Kazakhstan were indeed worrisome and the Pakistani leadership expressed its utmost well wishes for the people of Kazakhstan. However, Pakistan is also aware of the fact that



there could be a foreign hand involved in such uprisings. One should not forget the series of so-called revolutions spanning from 2000 to 2005 in the Central Asian Republics and number of former Soviet republics, collectively known as the "Colour Revolution." These revolutions were supported and funded by the foreign elements under the disguise of promoting democracy and liberal values. The "shoot to kill" and related orders issued by the Kazakh Government did raise eyebrows; however, it is to be noted here that highly coordinated protestors and well-planned protests do not happen out of the ordinary. Such fully organized and highly synchronised efforts need weeks if not months of planning and calling such unfortunate incidents 'spontaneous' - could be nothing but a fallacy.

Following a long and lengthy struggle for independence in August 1947, the people of Pakistan have witnessed a turbulent political landscape; nonetheless, such a resilient journey has enabled its citizens to analyse and comprehend international politics. It would not be ambitious to argue that the people of Pakistan are now and

have time and again remained a victim of international politics and they fully understand the events happening in Kazakhstan. History reveals that the geography of a nation acts in numerous ways, as it can be a blessing and could become a curse. It is notable that Kazakhstan is a resource-rich country. Moreover, its geography with regards to the China-led BRI is worthy to contemplate. There could be certain elements which do not want Kazakhstan to be a part of the Belt and Road.

ACCORDING TO THE EMBASSY OF PAKISTAN IN KAZAKHSTAN, TILL 2015, THE TOTAL TRADE VOLUME BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS WAS AROUND 35 MILLION US DOLLARS. HOWEVER, CITING THE HUGE POTENTIAL OF OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION, PAKISTAN COULD INVEST HEAVILY IN KAZAKHSTAN IN TERMS OF MEN AND MATERIAL

Furthermore, Pakistan and Kazakhstan are members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and in 2015, the then Prime Minister of Pakistan Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and the then Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev met in Astana, Kazakhstan. At that time, Pakistan was not a member of the SCO; however, since 2016, Pakistan was granted full membership. Such ventures have the potential for more connectivity and productivity for both countries and the region.

The India-based newspaper The Print noted that “Kazakhstan’s



elites traded political freedom for economic growth.” This observation could have been inaccurate or a little true. However, before making an observation about a nation, it is pertinent to study its strategic culture and the overall strategic environment. Kazakhstan remained a Soviet Socialist Republic and since its independence in 1991, it is flourishing in socio-economic terms. Predictably, it will take a little more time for Kazakhstan to become a fully acceptable nation for the West. However, the Human Development Index (HDI) of Kazakhstan is very encouraging and the standard of living of Kazakh people is relatively better. As mentioned earlier, it is inspiring to know that the average Gross Domestic Product or GDP per capita income of Kazakh people is around 10,000 US Dollars; while it is worth noting that China’s GDP per capita income is around 10,500 US Dollars. The numbers tell us a good picture of Kazakhstan and we can well understand the quality of life of Kazakh people.

According to the Embassy of Pakistan in Kazakhstan, till 2015, the total trade volume between the two nations was around 35 million US Dollars. However, citing the huge potential of oil and

gas exploration, Pakistan could invest heavily in Kazakhstan in terms of men and material. It is encouraging that according to the Embassy of Pakistan in Kazakhstan, Pakistan and Kazakhstan have signed more than thirty-nine bilateral agreements and protocols till 2018 and are willing to cooperate more bilaterally, as well as use the platform of the SCO.

On October 22, 2021, the Kazakh Ambassador to Pakistan His Excellency Yerzhan Kistafin delivered a talk entitled “Pakistan-Kazakhstan Relations: Cooperation in Regional Peace and Stability” at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), Pakistan. Ambassador Yerzhan Kistafin appreciated the Pakistan-Kazakhstan relations and stressed upon three elements:

- i. Collaboration between universities;
- ii. Cooperation between think-tanks;
- iii. Engagement between media of two countries.

Ambassador Yerzhan Kistafin argued that the three elements could be used as a medium to bring the people of the two countries closer and to strengthen bilateral relations.

The Russian International Affairs Council (RIAC) published a commentary on January 17, 2022, that claimed the initial protests to be “genuine,” but it maintained that later such protests were “opportunistically hijacked by as yet unknown political forces.” The article also suggested that the incumbent President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev feared that “a coup was imminent” and “the political origin of the coup was within his own Nur Otan party.” Such theories could be considered; nevertheless, what is more important for the state and people of Kazakhstan is to maintain security within and without.

Kazakhstan is a responsible member of the international community. According to the American-based International Launch Services, Kazakhstan houses the Baikonur Cosmodrome which is an international spaceport and facilitates the launch of spacecrafts. The Western criticism on the peacekeeping deployment of Collective Security Treaty Organization in Kazakhstan is overhyped and over-feared.

It is to be remembered here that North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has time and again intervened not only in European instabilities such as initiating the Operation Allied Force in Kosovo in 1999, but also it took part in Libyan Civil War in 2011.

PAKISTAN AND KAZAKHSTAN HAVE AN UNENDING RELATIONSHIP WHICH IS DEEP ROOTED IN CULTURE, REGION, RELIGION, AND ABOVE ALL THE SPIRIT AND ENTHUSIASM TO SHARE THE REWARDS OF GEOGRAPHY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The deployment of CSTO peacekeeping troops in Kazakhstan not only prevented the outbreak of a civil war but also helped the Kazakh Government to restore order. It is pertinent to mention here that after almost a week of deployment, the multi-national peacekeeping forces have started to withdraw. However,

it is in the larger interest of Kazakhstan that in the years to come, the Kazakh Government must ensure human rights, freedom of speech, and transparency in its authority as well as execution of power. Such measures could readily pacify any protests as well as unrest.

Furthermore, Pakistan and Kazakhstan have an unending relationship which is deep rooted in culture, region, religion, and above all the spirit and enthusiasm to share the rewards of geography and natural resources. It is, therefore, incumbent upon Pakistan and Kazakhstan to enhance their bilateral relations and to use the forum of SCO for the betterment of their respective people and the people of the world ■



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CHINA'S Development Model Inspires the World

By Ambassador Syed Hasan Javed

Former American National Security Advisor Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski in his book 'Out of Control' has analyzed dispassionately the rise of Great Powers in history. He observes, 'The emergence of Great powers is also the consequence of special responsibility combined with inherent physical capability. The moment or the historical trend must be congenial to the flowering of a dominant, catalytic state that has something of importance to say to the world at large---be it through a civilization mission or a doctrinal revelation or a compelling social example'. (Pages 116-118)

The rise of the People's Republic of China on the global level over the past more than half a century, is an event of historical significance for a number of reasons including its success in lifting nearly 800 million people out of poverty, in the shortest period of time in human history. The Chinese leadership under President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang are now engaged in building up incrementally on the achievements of their worthy and eminent predecessors. In matters of governance, the current leadership has promoted the 'Sanxin' or three new ideas

mainly based on, new thinking and new strategy.

China has continued successes in its nation building, strengthening economy and enhancing defence power profile. It has effectively tackled the challenges of poverty, under development and inequality in China transforming China from the Sick man of Asia' to global power. The Chinese leadership has worked diligently to address the gaps that are natural outcomes of such a fast pace of transformation including the disparity in regional development, income inequality,



corruption and the threats posed by environmental pollution. The party and the state leadership aimed to achieve 'Sige Quanmian' (four comprehensives). The four comprehensives include: To establish comprehensive prosperous society, to comprehensively promote rule of law and strictly govern the Communist Party.

THE CHINESE LEADERSHIP HAS WORKED DILIGENTLY TO ADDRESS THE GAPS THAT ARE NATURAL OUTCOMES OF SUCH A FAST PACE OF TRANSFORMATION INCLUDING THE DISPARITY IN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT, INCOME INEQUALITY, CORRUPTION AND THE THREATS POSED BY ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

The Chinese Party and state leadership with the help of theory of 'Three new ideas and four comprehensives', aims to deepen the principles of governance, socialist construction, push forward open door policy and achieve socialist modernization in accordance with scientific principles and implementation. In order to keep pace with its own fast transformation and changes in the world at large, the Communist Party under the dynamic leadership of President Xi Jinping, has advocated what is known as "Wu Da Lilun" meaning: Five principles of development philosophy i.e. Innovation, Coordination, Green environment, Opening up and sharing ideas.

By following a series of new strategies of new reforms,

opening up and strengthening the principles of governance and modernization, China has now advanced to a new historical level of progress, building a moderately prosperous society; thus, developing Socialism with 'Chinese Characteristics', by 2020, the first hundred years of the founding of the Communist Party. By fast tracking its own economic and social growth, China is helping the world to grow, along with itself. China in recent years, has been contributing at least one-third of global growth, thus helping other nations to lift their people out of poverty. The availability of good quality Chinese manufactured goods, particularly electronics; textiles; toys are adding to the exports of China. Rising Chinese outbound investment is a good omen, as it pursues a win-win strategy in global affairs. China's target to lift all people out of poverty by 2020, was achieved; urbanization reached 60 percent by 2020, up from the 55 percent in 2015; green development reduces emissions per unit of GDP by 40 percent to 45 percent by 2020, compared to 2005 levels has been nearly achieved; it increased the share of non-fossil fuel energy to 15 percent by 2020. China's area under forestry, has increased to 35 percent from 17 percent in 2000 due to dedicated programs on re-forestation, re-claiming deserts and developing water reservoir resources.

The 14th Five Year Plan (2021-2025) includes the guiding principles, main targets and major aspects of new policy initiatives to overcome the challenges during the next five years. These are Dual circulation economy,

movement towards a high income economy, continued opening up i.e. perpetual reforms, active role in global governance and a community of shared prosperity i.e. Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).



China now aims to improve the quality and effectiveness of development by maintaining sustained and healthy economic growth; pursuing innovation driven development and accelerating modernization of the industrial system; creating a robust domestic market and fostering new development pattern; advancing rural revitalization across the board and improving the new urbanization strategy; improving regional economic structures and promoting coordinated regional development. Advancing reform and opening up across the board and bolstering the momentum and vitality of development; promoting green development and ensuring harmony between humanity and nature; improving people's well-being and striving for common prosperity of people; ensuring both development and security and ushering in a new stage in building a 'Peaceful China'.

China aims for GDP growth of more than 6 percent. Over 11 million new urban jobs will be created. Consumer price index will be kept at 3 percent. Grain output is targeted to increase to 650 million tons. A 10.6 percent increase in central government expenditure on basic research. An over 30 percent increase in inclusive loans to micro

and small businesses by large commercial banks. A drop of about 3 percent in energy consumption per unit of GDP. Clean heating will comprise 70% of all heating across North China. Maintain the surveyed urban unemployment rate within 5.5 percent; raising the percentage of permanent urban residents to 65% of population; R&D spending will increase by 7 percent per year; the total area of farmland will be more than 120 million hectares; expand forest coverage to 24.1% of China's total land area; coverage of basic old age insurance to reach 95% of the population; energy consumption per unit of GDP and carbon dioxide emissions per unit of GDP reduced by 13.5% and 18% respectively.

China neither seeks leadership nor geo-political domination in the region or globally. It has steadfastly promoted the ideals of 'Prosperity Thy Neighbor' Policy, resolving territorial disputes left over by history when it was a victim of foreign interference and intervention. China is willing to let 'bygones be bygones' for the sake of a safe, secure and stable world for the succeeding generations. China's growing participation in global governance will negate the zero-sum game, long propounded by the Cold War theorists. China encourages dialogue, understanding, accommodation and tolerance for the betterment of global society. China's constructive role in regional and international affairs and its peaceful intentions cannot be doubted, even by its adversaries. These facts are testified by history and ground realities. China has refused to be provoked and always prefers dialogue over confrontation. This is not because of any weakness but due to in-built 'pacific temper' of the Chinese population. China is no Soviet Union. The proponents of Cold War-II desire to engage China, to contain China.

Those eager to seek China in a confrontation mode, despite Taiwan will be deeply disappointed. China as a civilized state with rich heritage of statecraft and diplomacy knows very well to deal with these colonial/imperial amateurs of the past 400 years. China's peaceful rise is ending an unfortunate chapter of global history, shaped by the proponents of 'Forever Wars'.

CHINA NEITHER SEEKS LEADERSHIP NOR GEO-POLITICAL DOMINATION IN THE REGION OR GLOBALLY. IT HAS STEADFASTLY PROMOTED THE IDEALS OF 'PROSPERITY THY NEIGHBOR' POLICY, RESOLVING TERRITORIAL DISPUTES LEFT OVER BY HISTORY WHEN IT WAS A VICTIM OF FOREIGN INTERFERENCE AND INTERVENTION

In a fast transforming complex global environment, China's road to development provides unprecedented opportunities for other countries too. It is keen to engage with the world and share its success and prosperity. China does not seek leadership or domination, unlike many others. However, China's rise comes at the right moment in contemporary history, when the issues of global governance are assuming grave dimensions with capacity, credibility and trust problems. Chinese development and diplomacy paradigm are meant to achieve common prosperity and a shared destiny of mankind under 'Belt and Road Initiative', connecting Asia, Europe and Africa as well as promoting the Maritime Silk Route connecting all oceans, seas and

distant lands in the world. In a digitally connected age, the global order can no more be sustained by threats, bullying, coercion, creative destruction, coalition building, or 'neo cold war' doctrine. Slowly, but surely the understanding, appreciation and admiration of the role of China is growing exponentially, just as its economy. Yet in many ways, the fascinating story of China's rise awaits to be told to the world. Most foreign scholars have spoken about the process of transformation of China. However, nobody has explained why and how it came about. As China's influence grows globally and the interest of the international community in its social and development paradigm increases, authoritative well researched material is going to be available on the subject. Pakistan's visionary poet Allama Muhamad Iqbal (1877-1938) who had foretold the reawakening of China in his poetry, says: 'The wine shops of the Orient still have the Elixir, which can brighten the darkness', (In the West) ■



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WEIGHING B3W AGAINST BRI

By Mominyar Khalid Butt

The aforementioned quote, often attributed to Napoleon Bonaparte, rightly predicted the rise of a nation that was once addicted to opium. However, this plight was bound to change. The sleeping giant of the past turned into a leading and formidable power at the dawn of 21st century. The rising influence and growth of China has been labeled as a threat to the US global influence and security as per the 2021 Annual Threat Assessment report. Resultantly, battle lines have been drawn for the new Cold War between United States and China as witnessed by the recent trade war, cyber war and tech war. It has already been stated by Graham Allison in his book, 'Destined for War: Can America and China Escape Thucydides Trap?' where he has unequivocally explained China-US relations through the lens of Thucydides Trap.

Build Back Better World (B3W) - an initiative announced by Biden administration in 2021, epitomizes the perpetuation of anti-China policies being launched by United States in an attempt to maintain its global dominance. It is a global infrastructure development plan launched through the platform of Group of Seven (G7) countries including Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, United States and United Kingdom. From Obama's Asia Pivot Strategy to Trump's Asia Reassurance Initiative Act (ARIA) and Biden's Strategic Competition Act, all policies are aimed to counter China's global rise. Beijing's massive investment of USD 4 to 8 trillion under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is a vast collection of development and infrastructure projects stretching

from East Asia to Europe.

What makes B3W more comprehensive than BRI is that it aims to invest \$40 trillion in the development of middle and low-income countries of Latin America, Africa and Indo-Pacific regions affected by Covid-19 as committed by G7 countries in a unified vision. It is pertinent to mention that B3W has the potential to eclipse BRI in terms of investment, area of impact and overall goals if implemented as envisioned by its founders. However, it is not as simple as it appears.

CHINA IS THE LEADING AND SUCCESSFUL PRACTITIONER OF GEO-ECONOMICS AS WITNESSED BY ITS EXPONENTIAL ECONOMIC GROWTH. IT WILL TAKE LONG TIME BEFORE THE AMBITIOUS INITIATIVE OF B3W GETS FULLY MATERIALIZED AND OPERATIONAL

While BRI focuses on peripheral and extended peripheral regions of China for economic connectivity, B3W offers a much broader area for cooperation, extending from Latin America to Indo-Pacific region. Apart from infrastructural development, B3W aims to build private capital in four broad areas: climate, health, digital technology, gender equity and equality while also enhancing strong strategic partnerships with the participating countries.

The question arises; does B3W have the actual potential to surpass BRI? There are certain limitations that should be addressed. First of all, B3W is not solely a US initiative. Rather, it is an enterprise that was launched through the platform of G7 countries. Thus, it cannot be single-handedly dictated and

directed towards anti-China postures by US. Furthermore, China is the biggest trading partner of European Union, with the total bilateral trade surpassing \$709 billion in 2020. In pure geo-economics sense, it would be quite naive to assume that EU countries would shun China at the behest of the US. Also, Italy, being a G7 country, is already part of BRI. It is pertinent to mention that success of B3W largely depends upon the future trajectory of US-EU relations that nosedived in Trump's era.

Next question pertains to financing of \$40 trillion under B3W at such a massive level. Almost all the countries, be it developed or developing, have been financially hit by Covid-19 crisis. Mobilizing private-sector capital seems quite difficult, especially in the wake of the pandemic where many economies have still not fully recovered. On the other hand, BRI relies on bilateral loans or lending made by state-owned banks. It facilitates swift and direct funding. In addition, whether or not middle and low-income countries will join B3W is another question that should be looked into.

What needs to be realized is the fact that China is the leading and successful practitioner of geo-economics as witnessed by its exponential economic growth. It will take long time before the ambitious initiative of B3W gets fully materialized and operational. The recent episode of France recalling its ambassador to United States over AUKUS security pact speaks volumes about the rising diplomatic spat between the two major countries of G7. The 21st century is well on its way towards becoming a Chinese century ■



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HUMAN SECURITY

AN INNOVATED NATIONAL

SECURITY POLICY OF PAKISTAN

By Komal Khan

Prime Minister Imran Khan. However, better late than never, the National Security Policy of Pakistan 2022-2026 provides an integrated structure of traditional and non-traditional security policies with geo-economics as core, as well as military and human-centric focus that is a noteworthy cover up to the existing security dilemma of Pakistan's National Security Policy framework. The executive summary of the document of Pakistan's National Security Policy 2022-2026 notes that 'appreciating this symbiotic relationship between economic, traditional, and human security allows the articulation of holistic policy actions that will prepare Pakistan to optimize National Security outcomes in the coming decades.'

THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPERATIVE OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY POLICY OF PAKISTAN CALLS FOR AN EQUITABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AS POLICY GUIDELINE TO OVERCOME THE PREVALENT SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMBALANCE IN BETWEEN SOCIAL STRATA AND REGIONS OF PAKISTAN

The focus on human security under the framework of National Security Policy is although a first step, to include human development as an indicator of National Security. Although human security is dealt with in section VIII of the National Security Policy document, however, it is in a correlated and symbiotic relationship with other primary indicators of the National Security document that include national cohesion in section III; economy in section IV; defence and territorial integrity in section V; and internal security in section VI.

Under the theme of Internal Security, the section points out citizens' constitutional privileges, non-violence, counter-extremism, and rule of law as determinants of internal security of Pakistan. Section III and Section VI of the National Security policy highlight specifications of human insecurity issues that exist in Pakistan in the form of sub-nationalisms; extremism and radicalisation; ethno-religious and

Conventionally, Pakistan's National Security Approach has relied upon a

traditional security triad: first, the India centered antagonism has always paired with another primary national security objective of defense and military buildup. In addition, the third component is a bandwagoning cooperation with core states to secure a regional balance of power in Pakistan's favour. Walter Lippman, the American author, argues that national security is conditioned to a non-compromising approach on nation's core values that can either be by war or by complete avoidance of war altogether. Similarly, Ahmad Faruqi, an economist and defense analyst, in his book 'Rethinking the National Security of Pakistan,' identifies Pakistan's national security conservatism as 'strategic myopia' of the policy makers which needs to be revised if national development and security goals of Pakistan are to be met in changing regional and global political and security dynamics.

Government of Pakistan has officially introduced its first National Security Policy for 2022-2026 under

inter-sectarian disharmony; and minority rights violations, hence impeding national cohesion.

Under section VI, Violent Sub-Nationalisms and tendencies have to be countered under a four-pronged policy of splitting up reconcilables from the irreconcilables, counter-recruitment operations, and their financial cut-offs, and targeted socio-economic development. This section prioritizes security of sect and religious minority rights in Pakistan, which have been a major humanitarian concern of national as well as international human rights agencies since decades.

The socio-economic imperative of the National Security Policy of Pakistan calls for an equitable economic development as policy guideline to overcome the prevalent socio-economic imbalance in between social strata and regions of Pakistan. Efficient socio-economic sustainability programs for low-income class such as Ehsaas and Panah Gah have been designed to secure the least socio-financial needs of the poverty-stricken population.

According to Annual Security Report of the Centre for Research and Security Studies, with an increase of roughly 42 per cent in 2021, eight-hundred and fifty-three people lost lives in violence incidents in Pakistan, which indicates a forty-two percent increase in 2021 since 2020. The regional discrimination and sub-nationalism tendencies can be clearly witnessed in the report according to which Balochistan accounts for about eighty percent of the total increase in violence-caused fatalities. Alarming, the radical-cum-fundamentalist religio-political cults like the Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) are also responsible for thirteen deaths, mostly of policemen.

'Pakistan 2020 Human Rights Report' published by the United States Department of State comprehends Pakistan's human security crisis by stating that the terrorist violence as well as human rights violations carried out by non-state actors are responsible for human rights issues in Pakistan. This culture of violence in Pakistan has sustained through human insecurities created by non-state actors through practices such as human rights abuses, and socio-religious intolerance. However, the same report holds government of Pakistan responsible for lack of accountability, prosecutions and implementation of laws. Similarly, according to economic security indicators of Pakistan as per NDP's Pakistan National Human Development Report 2020, authored by Dr. Hafiz A Pasha, income quintile of the poorest is 14.2 percent; while

for the wealthiest, it is 37.2 percent. Consequently, Pakistan's human development index value grew by 39% only in last 27 years which is second lowest in South Asia, with Bangladesh standing at 59%, and India at 52%. Within this, only seven percent of women in Pakistan have financial inclusion in services, however, having limited accessibility to credit in total.

PAKISTAN'S HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX VALUE GREW BY 39% ONLY IN LAST 27 YEARS WHICH IS SECOND LOWEST IN SOUTH ASIA, WITH BANGLADESH STANDING AT 59%, AND INDIA AT 52%. WITHIN THIS, ONLY SEVEN PERCENT OF WOMEN IN PAKISTAN HAVE FINANCIAL INCLUSION IN SERVICES, HOWEVER, HAVING LIMITED ACCESSIBILITY TO CREDIT IN TOTAL

The above indicators of human insecurity situation in Pakistan necessitate the policy-makers to prioritize the human centric determinants of security while framing National Security Policy of Pakistan, now onwards.

Human security is the referent object of national security. - Barry Buzan

Human security is the condition to national security of a state. In the seminal work on human security aspects of national security by the Copenhagen School of Thought, 'Security: A New Framework for Analysis,' Barry Buzan and his fellows Ole Waever and Jaap de Wilde advance 'a beyond the state referent of security which incorporates society, individuals, economy, and environment as extended dimensions of national security. Similarly, Rothchild in her conceptualization of the question 'What is Security?' also diversifies national security in four domains. According to her, primarily, the account of security has spilled over from nations to individuals. Second, comes the International System. Then, the extension is beyond military domains into political, socio-economic, environmental or, collectively, the 'human' domain. While the fourth domain covers the non-state actors. Therefore, the human security component of the National Security Policy of Pakistan is a right approach to secure as well as improve the human development in Pakistan ■



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LESSONS FOR PAKISTAN FROM CHINA'S PROGRESS IN RENEWABLE ENERGY

By Dr. Abdul Rauf

Energy is required for economic development as all economic activities require this fundamental component. Industry, transportation, modern agriculture and all other associated economic activities require reliable supply of energy at affordable prices which is sustainable. Energy demand is directly linked with the socio-economic development and GDP of any country. As nations are progressing, more and more energy is required to meet the needs. With the growing concerns about climate change and global warming arising from greenhouse gas emissions, and other environmental concerns, there is a need to acquire and

use energy which does not have negative impact/s on the planet, yet enough of it is available at affordable prices. Unfortunately, till today bulk of the energy is coming from fossil fuels (oil, gas and coal) which is harmful for environment due to the increased greenhouse gas emissions. The reserves of these fossil fuels are also limited and thus not sustainable. These oil and gas reserves are not evenly distributed across the globe, therefore certain nations have to spend a major portion of their foreign reserves on the import of oil and gas, which puts an increased pressure on their

economies. With growing population more and more energy will be required as every individual requires energy for everyday activities. For such activities, the importance of energy is realized, and energy security has now become an important component of National Security.

China is presently the largest consumer of energy and with its growing economy the demand for energy continues to increase. Although China is importing bulk of these energy fuels but as the country has large export based industrial economy which is consuming this energy to produce export goods and has much more value as compared to the energy consumed



so economical pressure may not be that significant however use of oil, gas and coal to meet this growing energy demands could cause a significant irreparable loss to the environment. These concerns motivated China to invest in renewable energy sources. Renewable energy is the energy extracted from sources which are naturally replenishing and not finite or exhaustible thus sustainable. Renewable energy does not emit carbon or is carbon neutral, which means that it absorbs as much carbon as it emits. However, supply of energy from these renewable sources is limited in timescale. Globally still more than 80% of the energy is coming from high energy density fossil fuels. A number of renewable energy sources are available including solar (photovoltaic or solar thermal concentrating), wind, hydropower, geothermal, biofuels, and ocean energy.

Under the leadership of President Xi Jinping, China has the political will, leadership commitment, economic capability, and moral consensus needed to lead the global renewable energy sector. This will enable the country to fight pollution and mitigate climate change besides making the country use domestic renewable energy sources, and hence result in less dependence on unstable regions for energy security. China is offering different policy incentives and leading the world in investment and deployment of renewable energy. To attract investors in the renewable energy sector, Chinese government is offering; tax incentives on foreign direct investment, on-grid tariff subsidies and import purchase discounts to Chinese companies on import of foreign technology. China is establishing Joint research alliances with the West, where China is advancing the acquired western technology. One of the Chinese companies, Trina which is the world's largest solar panel manufacturer, broke the world record on the efficiency of multicrystalline-silicon solar cells. Targets for renewable energy are set as by 2030, more than 20% of the

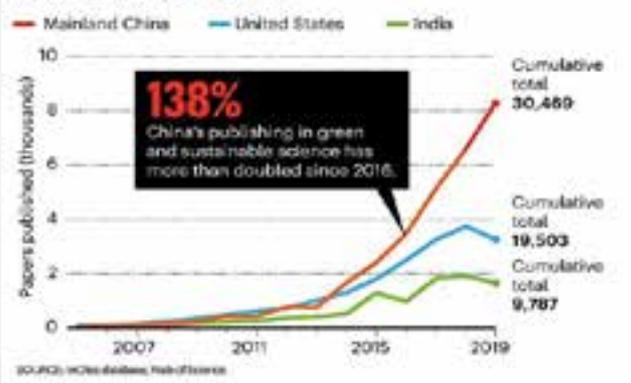
country's electricity production is expected to be from non-fossil fuels. China is leading the world in wind and solar power generation. As per IEA (International Energy Agency), 36 to 40 percent of the world's growth in solar and wind energy will be coming from China. As of 2017, the country owns five of the world's six largest solar-module manufacturing companies and the world's largest wind turbine manufacturer. Cost of photovoltaic solar panels has also reduced significantly, from 30 Yuan per watt in 2007 to 2 Yuan per watt in 2017.

PAKISTAN SHOULD EXPLORE AND DEPLOY RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES ON EMERGENCY BASIS. PAKISTAN HAS A HUGE POTENTIAL FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY PRODUCTION, MAY IT BE SOLAR, WIND, HYDROPOWER, OR BIOMASS, HOWEVER THE UTILIZATION OF RENEWABLES IS NOT AS PER THIS POTENTIAL. PAKISTAN RECEIVES 8-10 HOURS/ DAY HIGH SOLAR RADIATIONS WITH MORE THAN 300 SUNSHINE DAYS/ YEAR

Pakistan is facing huge challenges in energy sector as bulk of energy demands are met through imported hydrocarbon fuels which is further pressurizing our stressed economy. The country is facing demand-supply gap for power and gas which is continuously increasing. This is causing a significant impediment to socio-economic growth and social prosperity in Pakistan. Thus, Pakistan should explore and deploy

GROWTH IN GREEN RESEARCH

China publishes more papers in the field of green and sustainable science and technology, energy and fuels than do either the United States or India, according to Web of Science data.



renewable energy sources on emergency basis. Pakistan has a huge potential for renewable energy production, may it be solar, wind, hydropower, or biomass, however the utilization of renewables is not as per this potential. Pakistan receives 8-10 hours/ day high solar radiations with more than 300 sunshine days/ year. Pakistan has about 2900 GW of solar power potential and wind power potential of 43000 MW, however main obstacles to full-scale exploitation of these naturally available renewable resources include high cost, lack of technology, socio-political behaviors, and governmental policy conflicts. Pakistan has a huge potential for hydro-electrics which is a well-established technology, but lack of water storage capacity is an issue. Looking at the Chinese progress we must introduce sustainable policy incentives, focus on research and collaboration to acquire latest technology, loans for on grid solar PV systems, public / policymakers' awareness on environmental / commercial benefits of renewable energy and above all must have leadership vision and political will. We as a nation must actively pursue distributed and integrated renewable energy solutions that will bring great benefits to the people of this country ■



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Analyzing the Impact of Climate Change on Geo-Economic Growth and Development

By Tajwer Shamsi and Fatima Shakeel

Despite being one of the most pressing concerns of the 21st century, Climate Change remains to be undermined when it comes to analyzing the possible impact it may have on geo-economic development. Instead, only the inverse i.e. the impact of geo-economics in speeding up climate change is brought into common discussion. The slow pace of the impact of climate change and the indirect relationship it has with geo-economics often leads to ignorance towards factoring climate change as a catalyst of economic growth and development. However, what needs to be realized is that it is all a matter of time before the global tipping point is reached and disastrous results are witnessed. Already due to rising temperatures, sea levels are rising, most rapidly in the Arctic and Antarctic regions - two of the coldest regions - leading to flooding, droughts, and changes in weather patterns. These, in turn, are leading to famines by crop failures, damage to infrastructure due to flooding and storms, and intense weather conditions including haze and smog which makes transportation a dangerous task. Understanding how climate change works, its relationship with geoeconomics becomes an inevitable one. With the damage that is caused to geography by climate change and the inverse impact of geo-economic development on resource depletion, climate change and geoeconomics seem to be trapped in a vicious, never-ending cycle where one deteriorates the other. Conflicts that have underlying issues of

geoeconomics, resource acquisition, and climate change further add to the mix of trouble in the affected areas. Nevertheless, despite the adversity between geoeconomics and climate change, it must be realized that the preservation of one for the other is equally imperative for securing a better future. Geo-economic development is crucial for the development of sustainable resource management which would help in slowing down the process of climate change.

Apart from the direct results which might include changes in agriculture and labor productivity in industrial units, or perhaps extreme weather conditions or disease in the environment such as malaria and more so, geography may also affect the development opportunities by influencing the socio-political environment in which development takes place. This, in turn, takes up geo-economics' shortcomings.

CLIMATIC CONFLICT CAN BE DEFINED AS CONFLICT THAT ROOTS FROM CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CRISES. THE CAUSAL LINKAGE BETWEEN CLIMATIC FACTORS AND CONFLICT IS NOT AN UNUSUAL ONE

To further understand geoeconomics, low-income and middle-income earners such as Sub-Saharan Africa and countries that are unable to execute even the minimum of tasks expected from a developing state are called "Fragile" states. They are called so following their fragile policies, system of governance and institutions.

Fragile regions are at greater risk for climate change, the effects could follow depletion of natural resources and changing climatic patterns. The major impacts of climate change will be felt most in the poorer or fragile countries. On the other hand, the climate may also be contributing to the weakness of the state itself, for example as a critical cause of conflict or as a factor in enhancing the level and intensity of protracted conflicts. In this regard, climate can also play a major role in institutional development and institutional change, constituting an important indirect passage of effect from climate change to long-term development.

War and conflict remain to be omnipresent phenomena in international politics. More often than not, the causes of war bounce between resource acquisition - natural or manmade - and wealth, translated as economics. Climatic conflict can be defined as conflict that roots from climate and environmental crises. The causal linkage between climatic factors and conflict is not an unusual one. History is littered with examples of how climatic disasters have led to conflicts. Evidence suggests that the 1789 French Revolution was caused by the eruption of a volcano, all the way in Ireland, due to which the air across Europe was contaminated with sulfur and resulted in a haze, causing delays in the shipping of crops and food supplies. If geo-economics is defined as the use of economic factors to expand and project political power, then the relationship between economic resources - boiling down to natural resources, including water, agricultural land, and minerals etc. -

and conflict over their acquisition is an inherent one since in a world of infinite wants, resources remain to be finite.

Political power essentially lacks substance without economic prosperity which is why the depletion of resources and climate change pose a massive threat to geo-economics. Trouble arises over the unequal distribution of resources, and when an already limited number of resources start to further deplete due to climate change, conflict becomes an even more glaring probability. Adaption to climate change also requires changes to economic lifestyle and perhaps even moving to another geographical area. If a river dries up or agricultural land becomes too arid, one would look towards acquiring another's land which would lead to contention.

The correlation between geoeconomics and climatic conflict has already started to manifest itself across the globe, more prominently in the developing world. Central Asia, for instance, despite being the heart of China's Belt & Road initiative is one of the regions of the world which is most vulnerable to climate conflict due to its landlocked character and lack of freshwater resources. The drying up of the Aral Sea, resulting from industrial and agricultural over-usage has been a reason for active skirmishes between the Kyrgyz, Tajik and Uzbek military. Similarly, evidence has been found which directly relates to climate change led droughts and famines to be the leading cause behind the culmination of the Arab Spring, particularly in Syria, Tunisia, and Egypt.

Institutional suitability for international prosperity has been highlighted since the beginning of modern economic thought. Climate change shows us a much clearer picture. We can see through climatic hazards how institutions not only influence human behavior but any opportunities for a sound comprehension of economic

life should be in lieu of the political and social systems, in which economic health is centered such as during the 2011 Tsunami in Japan.

Furthermore, as political and economic institutions during any climate change such as floods, droughts, earthquakes all around the world emphasize on economic activity, further clarifying institutional diversity helps us to understand the differences between poor and well-to-do nations. Understanding institutional development is therefore important to make sense of geoeconomics.

CLIMATE CAN ALSO PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND INSTITUTIONAL CHANGE, CONSTITUTING AN IMPORTANT INDIRECT PASSAGE OF EFFECT FROM CLIMATE CHANGE TO LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT

Many policymakers have the misconception that economic development and climate change are irreconcilable. Most emerging countries must play a key role in global climate prevention action for which they require the support of the most advanced economies. For such purposes, we can look at the example of projects such as the Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI) which shows the cooperation among countries for economic development and climate change. Climate Change has come and taken a toll on human life, eroding livelihoods, damaging infrastructure, destroying the economy of states, and disorienting the state budget. Many policymakers are still struggling with the misconception that Climate Change and economic prosperity are incompatible. Aside from violent conflicts, there has been widespread competition for geo-economics. Across many regions such as Africa, Asia, and Latin America investments in

technology, energy, and infrastructure are beginning to shift from G20-linked partnerships to geo-economic competitiveness. It is only fitting that developed economies sponsor technical and financial reinforcement to aid developing countries to cope with the growing climate crisis. Severe Climate Change will have a lasting impact on geopolitics, thus establishing new opportunities and vulnerabilities.

We are in a precarious situation where the next major wave of global migration crisis - already commenced by the war in Ukraine - and social unrest will be and has already been stimulated by climate change and climatic insecurity. We need to reorganize the interdependence and linkages between geoeconomics and climate change to further embrace green and clean investment in infrastructure and services to warrant socio-economic security.

The parasitic traditional relationship between Geo-economics and Climate Change can be swapped for a more symbiotic and harmonious one with the introduction of green technologies in geo-economic development programs. Programs such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Pacific Resilience Project already offer drought-tolerant agriculture mechanisms and low-carbon programs, by attracting climate-smart investment and development opportunities for both, industrialized and industrializing nations. Geo-economics thus provides an opportunity to avoid the most dangerous resultant impacts of global warming and secure a greener planet for all ■



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ENERGY SECURITY FOR ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY IN PAKISTAN

By Noor Sabah

Energy Security carries vital importance with regards to National Security across the globe as it pumps the economic engine as well as is critical to the social and environmental sustainability of any country. Its importance is acknowledged equally during wartime and in times of peace. Likewise, its availability and affordability are critical elements of economic well-being and also for industrial competitiveness.

In recent decades, Energy Security studies have shifted from a classic approach and has become an interdisciplinary field. Climate change, globalization and the uncertain future of fossil fuels have added new dimensions, such as sustainability, energy efficiency, mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions, accessibility of energy services, etc. Thus, the concept of energy security became interconnected with other environmental, economic, social, political, and security issues.

Energy security is a goal that many countries are pursuing to ensure that their economies function without interruption and that their people have access to adequate, reliable and affordable supplies of modern and clean energy. It is a pressing concern because the energy demand is growing rapidly due to robust economic expansion,

population growth etc. Furthermore, the production, transportation and utilization of energy are major sources of greenhouse gases that cause global warming and climate change.

ENERGY SECURITY IS A GOAL THAT MANY COUNTRIES ARE PURSUING TO ENSURE THAT THEIR ECONOMIES FUNCTION WITHOUT INTERRUPTION AND THAT THEIR PEOPLE HAVE ACCESS TO ADEQUATE, RELIABLE AND AFFORDABLE SUPPLIES OF MODERN AND CLEAN ENERGY

Energy security plays a very important role in the growth of transitional economies, such as Pakistan. In a developing country like Pakistan, a reliable, uninterrupted, affordable and clean energy supply is a fundamental precondition for reducing poverty, and environmental challenges and in encouraging investment and boosting economic growth. However, Pakistan's energy sector is facing several challenges. Each challenge has a direct impact on the socio-economic and environmental sustainability of the country.

Pakistan is naturally blessed with extensive and diverse sources of energy. However, despite having high renewable energy potential and growing investments in the energy sector, several internal and

external factors have impeded the development of an efficient and well-governed energy sector. Pakistan is currently facing an acute level of energy insecurity manifested by issues such as lack of access to the grid, gap between demand and supply, import dependency, soaring energy prices, weak governance, poor fiscal management of the sector and reliable energy sources. It is among the top ten countries facing a severe energy crisis as well as, has long been experiencing the direct effects of severe climate events like floods and heat waves.

In the past, energy shortages and inefficiencies have also posed great problems to the citizens as well as businesses and agriculture. According to a survey by the World Bank, 66.7 per cent of the businesses in Pakistan cite electricity shortages as a more significant obstacle to business than corruption (11.7 per cent) and crime/terrorism (5.5 per cent).

Like any other country, energy is considered a vital factor in the economic growth trajectory of Pakistan. The non-renewable energy resources in the world are depleting. If alternative sources of energy (renewable) are not explored at a sufficiently large scale in the coming years, the world would have fierce competition for the acquisition of energy sources.

Pakistan's energy sector heavily relies on two major components of the energy mix (oil and gas). It imports nearly a third of its energy resources in the form of oil, coal, and liquefied natural gas (LNG) and meets 85% of its total petroleum products demand through imports. This increasing reliance on imported sources of energy is resulting in a huge demand-supply gap which is evident in suppressed demand for electricity and natural gas. Over time, this reliance on gas and oil resources has increased in comparison to hydroelectricity resources. The main reason behind this transition is the unexplored potential of hydroelectricity, coal, renewable (solar, wind, and biofuels, etc.) and nuclear resources for electricity generation. Moreover, during the last three decades, the share of hydroelectricity in the primary energy supply has decreased and the share of thermal (oil and gas) resources has increased. However, the share of renewable resources is negligible in the overall energy supply which is resulting in serious threats to not only our environmental and ecological scenarios but also wider socio-economics.

For instance, in 2018, Pakistan was hit with heavy monsoon rains, reported to have been the heaviest in thirty-eight years. In 2019, the nation experienced a record heat wave as the monsoon rains were delayed, with an all-time high temperature of 120 degrees Fahrenheit recorded June 2-3 in Jacobabad in Sindh province.

However, in the past few years, Pakistan has started to acknowledge its renewable energy potential as evidenced by the construction of Quaid-e-Azam Solar Park, with a nameplate capacity of 1,000 MW. Similarly, Pakistan's Vision 2025, is designed to represent an aspirational destination. It will serve as a critical guide-post for the development of an effective strategy and roadmap to reach our national

goals and aspirations. It recognizes that sufficient, reliable, clean, and cost-effective availability of energy, water, and food - for now, and in the future - is indispensable to ensure sustainable economic growth and development.

ENERGY SECURITY PLAYS A VERY IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE GROWTH OF TRANSITIONAL ECONOMIES, SUCH AS PAKISTAN. IN A DEVELOPING COUNTRY LIKE PAKISTAN, A RELIABLE, UNINTERRUPTED, AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY SUPPLY IS A FUNDAMENTAL PRECONDITION FOR REDUCING POVERTY, AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

The energy sector is critical to progress without addressing the problems mentioned above, but adequate investment and reliable energy supplies can mobilize and support sustainable economic growth in Pakistan; this is only possible if the government exhibits the political will to address the underlying problems. Therefore, in order to preserve our economic trends and improve its share in the global market, it is necessary to focus on the following recommendations.

◆ There is a need for additional steps beyond the Solar Park. All these steps should be part of a multipronged "energy productivity" policy. By encouraging energy conservation (efficiency), on one hand, and facilitating a move toward clean renewables, for instance, adoption of green energy solutions in the form of distributed generation, smart metering and electric vehicles – coupled with investments in utility-scale renewable energy power plants will not only enhance energy security but also improve the environment.

◆ The role of private investors in developing the infrastructure is still underrated in Pakistan. However, the renewable energy policies should emphasize the participation of the

private sector in developing the grid and transmission networking.

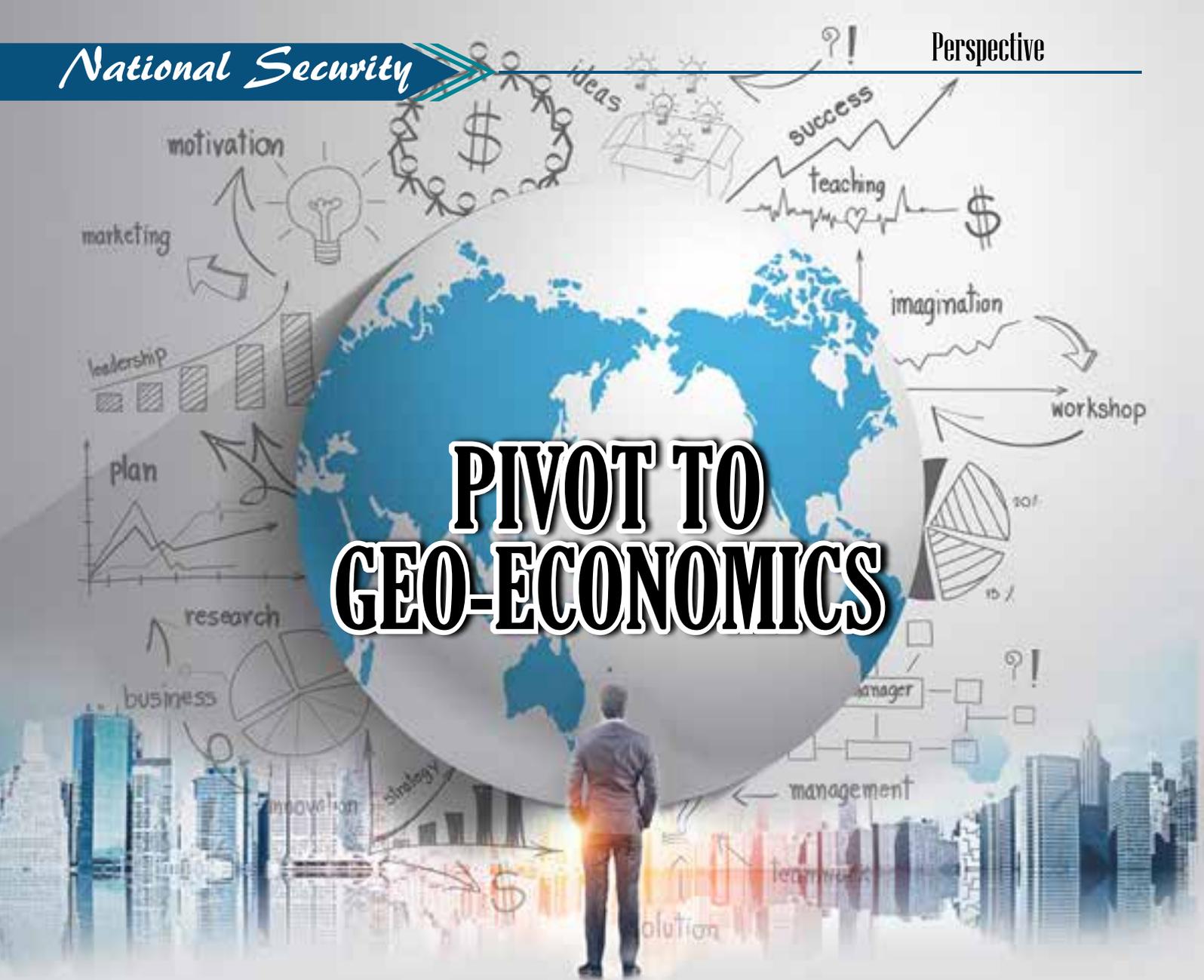
◆ Government is looking to reduce poverty and combat exclusion. It should also seek to understand how best to create wealth from the economy and implement a robust efficient energy system that promotes economic growth. In order to develop an inclusive economic policy, it's vital that energy planning is integrated with other sectors that drive economic growth, such as industrial or agricultural policy – recognising the fundamentals of energy demand. Moreover, affordable and sustainable energy supplies should be made available to the population to bring prosperity at large and to help eradicate poverty through various direct and indirect channels.

◆ Lastly, reducing energy intensity will reduce the dependence of the economy on energy consumption and imports.

Energy insecurity can potentially hinder economic growth and cause sustainability problems. Therefore, energy efficiency can play a crucial role in ensuring both long- and short-term energy securities in a cost-effective manner. It can bolster regional or national energy security. By reducing overall energy demand, efficiency can reduce reliance on imports of oil, gas and coal. One solution for tackling energy insecurity in Pakistan could be the adoption of renewable energy. Power generated from renewable sources could help in mitigating energy price fluctuations and reduce Climate Change issues, a phenomenon closely related to human use of energy, as well as encourage stable economic growth ■



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PIVOT TO GEO-ECONOMICS

CHALLENGES AND WAY-AHEAD FOR PAKISTAN

By Muhammad Nabeel

Since its inception, Pakistan has been entangled in persistent political and economic crises. A nascent state came into existence and earned independence on the basis of ideological ground, but soon lost direction at the hands of corrupt individual power brokers. The politics in Pakistan has dominated economic decision-making. In seventy-four years of history, Pakistan experienced military and civilian rules. However, none has envisaged foreign policy based on the geo-economic paradigm. In the 1990s global

politics encountered the waning importance of the utility of hard power for the accomplishment of geo-strategic goals. There is a lack of consensual agreement upon the definitional aspect of geo-economics. Geo-economics can be described as an alternative to conventional means of accomplishing foreign policy objectives and to achieve geopolitical objectives, together with regional strategic targets.

Pakistan's foreign policy has been confronted with numerous dilemmas. Thence, geopolitical objectives have been narrowly

conceived and short-sighted policies have prevailed. Rather than the protection of economic concerns, the focal point in the arena of external policies has always been tilted towards security apprehensions. The failure to assess emerging transition from traditional hard power projection to economic competition has delayed much-needed development.

In March 2020, a new alteration in foreign policy was announced at Islamabad Security Dialogue. The change from geopolitics to geo-economics was emphasized, but what does this transition actually

means? And how regional and global ever-evolving dynamics would be addressed from this lens? Abandoning geopolitical goals is not the thing that would happen eventually, but a priority has been given to economic development. There are both internal and external challenges that might come ahead in pursuance of this new policy.

DOMESTIC CHALLENGES

- Economic doldrums are the single biggest factor that discourage Pakistan’s geo-economic ambitions. Unless proper structural reforms are undertaken, the country’s financial stability would remain at risk.

GEO-ECONOMICS CAN BE DESCRIBED AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO CONVENTIONAL MEANS OF ACCOMPLISHING FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES AND TO ACHIEVE GEO-POLITICAL OBJECTIVES , TOGETHER WITH REGIONAL STRATEGIC TARGETS

Bureaucratic ineffectiveness and operational delays demotivate businesses’ and industries’ growth rate and act as a counterforce in the promotion of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). Furthermore, judicial decrees and interventionist convictions in matters relating to international agreements badly damage the country’s investment prospects as has happened in the case of Reko Diq which prompted increased reservations by foreign investments. Unabated tax fluctuations and frequent modification in fiscal policies give rise to instability and vulnerability of the system.

- Domestic political tensions and incessantly augmenting polarization hinder productive legislative processes. The harmonized political environment is a must to ensure reasoned and constructive debates

on forthcoming matters of national interest.

- Internal security concerns to mitigate ceaseless violent attacks by terror groups, emanating from discontented and marginalized communities are heavily affecting peace and development in the country’s remote areas, thus endangering foreign investments. Rising insurgencies in FATA and Balochistan after the US withdrawal from Kabul has once again instilled terrorist safe havens in Afghan territory that provide an opportunity for increasing cross-border terror attacks. Moreover, Pakistan’s western border with Iran remains porous and unmanageable, its historical ethno cultural proximity with Balochistan allows insurgents to seek sanctuaries on the other side of the border.

- Human Security is another fundamental prerequisite to be attained for the full operationalization of geo-economic policies. Covid-19 has severely affected the country’s population located at the lower side of socioeconomic stratification. In 2020, as per World Bank report country faced more than 5% rise in poverty, unemployment rate experienced a slight increment in the same year from 4.45% to 4.65% and education crises are also demoralizing development as more than 22.5 million students from age five till sixteen are out of school in Pakistan. Inadequate resource allocation in the human development sector further exacerbates these deplorable conditions.

EXTERNAL CHALLENGES

- A shift in World Order towards multi-polarity might pace down Pakistan’s geo-economic policy pursuit. Weakening US supremacy and emerging Chinese influence across Asia and Europe resulted in the formation of two divided

camp. US President Joe Biden dubbed his country’s opposition to China as a fight between two alternative ideological camps. The great schism which nearly vanished after the USSR disintegration in 1990 has now re-appeared as a new geopolitical reality. Regionally, the US swift withdrawal of its soldiers from Afghanistan caused the return of the Taliban in Kabul and has increased the chances of chaos and instability in the region which could, in turn, give rise to cross-border terror attacks. These terror activities would act as a stumbling block on Pakistan’s way towards regional tranquility essential for trade. Pakistan’s major concern has been to decrease the possibility of anarchy and have a friendly autonomous government in the backyard.

- Indian factor has long been a part of Pakistan’s security policies. Cessation of arm hostilities is not enough on the western border; regionally integrated development would not materialize unless a clear mutually accepted peace and cooperation mechanism has been adopted.

HUMAN SECURITY IS ANOTHER FUNDAMENTAL PREREQUISITE TO BE ATTAINED FOR THE FULL OPERATIONALIZATION OF GEO-ECONOMIC POLICIES

Trade interdependence and cultural exchanges are some of the factors which must be explored in order to build up a beneficial relationship.

- Constantly transforming geopolitical realities in the Middle East as UAE, and Bahrain extended recognition to Israel could impact Islamabad’s interest in the region. Moreover, Saudi Arabia has also shown interest in establishing formal diplomatic ties with them upon fulfillment of certain conditions. These developments might influence contestation between Saudi Arabia

and Iran. Pakistan although, has pledged to have a balanced relationship with both Muslim states but it appears to be tilted towards Riyadh because of being a major recipient of financial aid from the latter. This restraint in following independent foreign policy would significantly hamper Pakistan's credibility.

At this time, when Pakistan is surrounded by scores of geopolitical tussles, this policy shift did not specify how the country would be attaining its geostrategic interests while pivoting to geo-economics. Unless comprehensive conceptual and operational details have not been put forward, it would remain a declaration of intent rather than a holistic strategy to meet end goals. This substantial change entails far-reaching consequences over long-maintained geopolitical objectives such as one of the Kashmir Issue. Maintenance of peace with immediate neighbors through a settlement of longstanding issues by diplomatic rapprochement is a prerequisite to regional integration. Market liberalization will influence strongly the domestic cultures of Pakistan; hence this might invite unwanted resistance from socio-cultural and religious sections of the society. Furthermore, the political economy of Pakistan which lacks egalitarianism and inculcates authoritarianism need to be overhauled completely before any step towards human economic security is taken. Another key factor that is found missing in policy circles is population growth. With increasing youth bulge at 2.4 percent per annum, Pakistan faces unsustainability problems as only 2 percent of the country's GDP is being spent on the education sector, therefore proper resource allocation is wanted. Lastly, increment of global economic footprints demands trade

enhancement mainly exports, there are numerous industries having the potential to pour in billions of dollars but remain unexplored or dysfunctional. For instance, maritime tourism could be a major point of attraction for global tourist, yet it is underdeveloped and poorly managed. Seaport development should not be limited to Karachi and Gwadar port but must reach out to other remote coastal areas. The food industry is another; this sector requires modern technological techniques for increased productivity and efficiency.

THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF PAKISTAN WHICH LACKS EGALITARIANISM AND INCULCATES AUTHORITARIANISM NEED TO BE OVERHAULED COMPLETELY BEFORE ANY STEP TOWARDS HUMAN SECURITY IS TAKEN

Lastly, Information Technology is a modern-day leading industry in the global economy. In this information age, the IT sector is the outstanding enabler of development, equipping youth with relevant tools and skills is an essential task to alleviate poverty and unemployment. Technological

advancement and digital innovation is what, global economies are moving towards, therefore, in order to fully realize economic security, Pakistan must invest in it.

Pakistan needs to have a balanced and calculated approach towards matters relating to National Policy. Comprehensive strategies are required to overcome domestic and external challenges on way towards economic development. To meet end goals, the government must clarify means to familiarize it. Moreover, it should bear in mind before setting out any policy that without achieving human economic security any development process would remain superfluous and unproductive. Sustainability criteria ought to be considered because in its absence every stratagem would only be a pie in the sky. Pakistan's internal ailments such as population, education, security, political stability, and economy are the fundamentals that are to be incorporated in any scheme. Furthermore, to make headway in the utilization of geography for economic wellbeing, Pakistan has to manage its way out peacefully from geopolitical confrontations such as of US-China, Saudi-Iran, and its own as well with arch-rival India, nonetheless, future is bright if Pakistan succeeds in doing so ■



The writer is a student of International Relations at University of Karachi.

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



- 1 NO POVERTY**
- 2 ZERO HUNGER**
- 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING**
- 4 QUALITY EDUCATION**
- 5 GENDER EQUALITY**
- 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION**
- 7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY**
- 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH**
- 9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE**
- 10 REDUCE INEQUALITIES**
- 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES**
- 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION**
- 13 CLIMATE ACTION**
- 14 LIFE BELOW WATER**
- 15 LIFE ON LAND**
- 16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS**
- 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS**

CHINA AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

By Mohammad Jamal Ahmed

Mankind has experienced three distinctive Industrial Revolutions which have truly transformed the society: steam engine, electricity, and Internet Technology. Today, we peak inside the ingress of another such revolution, which has given a completely new meaning to transforming the society: Artificial Intelligence. The country at the forefront, aiming to spearhead the massive wave of automation and digitization, is China.

As the global demand for goods and services and the complexities of the labor market recovery increased, coupled with an unprecedentedly disrupted supply chain due to the pandemic, the global economy suffered brutally. It bled out trillions of dollars. Immersed in such a predicament, it is only Artificial Intelligence that can help by not only recovering the economy but also by sustaining it and boosting it to an unrivaled level.

Despite the short-lived irregularity caused by the pandemic in China, their total manufacturing output in 2020 amounted to \$3.8 trillion. It still managed to increase by 0.79 percent from last year. This remarkable feat was only achieved due to the wide scale adoption of Artificial Intelligence. It dramatically helped to increase productivity and

efficiency, and poised them towards a robust recovery.

THE VERY SOLID STRUCTURE ON WHICH THE PHENOMENA CALLED AI STANDS WAS LAID BY THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT. IN RECENT YEARS, XI JINPING'S ADMINISTRATION HAS INTRODUCED AND ENACTED A NUMBER OF POLICIES TO FOSTER THE RISE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Companies like EP Equipment, a lithium powered warehouse equipment manufacturer, signed strategic partnerships with Sinovation Ventures, a technology venture capital investment company, to pioneer AI infused material handling equipment. The autonomous robots are self-maintaining and can maneuver on the factory floor themselves. The operational costs reduced considerably ushering them into a completely new era of manufacturing industry.

Similarly, the Guangzhou based XAG company, the trailblazers of agriculture robotics and AI, have launched fully autonomous drones to conduct seeding, spraying, mapping and broadcasting on the farms in rural areas with aging

population and weak infrastructure. Other companies are exploring new sectors. For instance, MegaRobo, a Beijing based company, designs robots and AI to provide practical automation solutions to routine laboratory work in universities and pharmaceutical companies.

China is even making strides in its transport sector. It is the largest manufacturer and buyer of electric vehicles in the whole world. It also has the largest share of the world's electric buses. Yutong Group, the leading bus manufacturer, and WeRide, the first autonomous drive company in China, worked in collaboration and massively distributed autonomous 10-seater buses with 5G technology, enabling interaction between vehicles and traffic light, in numerous cities.

However, just 20 years ago, China's global share of research papers in the field of AI was a mere 4.26 percent. But by 2017, it had vaulted all the way up to 27.68 percent, surpassing every other country in the world. It consistently files the most AI patents making it the world leader in AI publications and patents, setting it on a trajectory to become a world leader in AI-infused businesses as well.

But then the question arises, how did China manage to catch up so quickly?

For that, it is important to understand the nature of AI. It is different from other technologies. As the research drives the field forward, its open science nature renders its essential algorithms as public knowledge. So even if you publish a paper, it is no difficult for others to crack the code. This gave China a latecomer advantage. It helped them leapfrog the knowledge gap from the leaders in a brief period of time.

However, the refinement of the process comes from the virtuous cycle of users generating mass amount of data and the firms then analyzing it and altering it. Here China has a unique opportunity with the largest population in the world; it has more than 1.4 billion people. Its market is specially conducive to the widespread adoption of Artificial Intelligence. You make a product, then you attract users and its traffic generates data.

For instance, Uber's Chinese counterpart, Didi - the largest ride sharing app in the world. Its CEO Liu Qing claims that Didi processes more than a thousand car requests per second, 70 Terabyte of data and 9 billion routes planned every single day. This gigantic volume of data presents China with the opportunity to build exceptionally large data bases.

Another significant factor is whether these advances are making profit. If the talent has the ability to generate profit through innovation then with the aid of data, it can eclipse patents in Artificial Intelligence research. Simply put, its essence of open science means that the competitive advantage is rooted in its ability to create a significantly large database, analyze it and create applications around those trends as quickly as possible.

Apart from the nature of AI, a few other key factors play a crucial role to explain the extensive acquisition of Artificial Intelligence throughout the country. The Chinese market is particularly receptive to the AI based products. They celebrate the convenience it brings and are fast to adopt it. Due to its massive size, it offers a wide array of opportunities for business startups in diverse fields from agriculture to surveillance.

MEGAROBO, A BEIJING BASED COMPANY, DESIGNS ROBOTS AND AI TO PROVIDE PRACTICAL AUTOMATION SOLUTIONS TO ROUTINE LABORATORY WORK IN UNIVERSITIES AND PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES

With more than 400 million CCTV surveillance cameras installed across mainland China, it has one of the biggest databases for facial recognition. Its facial recognition software can automatically catch and fine people for littering and even for wrong parking.

To peek inside the market's dynamics, have a look at WeChat. If we combine together the services of Uber, Facebook, Applepay, Snapchat, Amazon, Zoom, and Tinder into one app, then that will give us WeChat. More than a billion active monthly users use it to socialize, shop, pay utility bills, for restaurant and train bookings and so much more. It even allows businesses to create their own apps through the platform; providing its own analytics system to interpret the data. However, all these extraordinary advances may not have been possible had the foundation not been laid. The

very solid structure on which the phenomena called AI stands was laid by the Chinese government. In recent years, Xi Jinping's administration has introduced and enacted a number of policies to foster the rise of Artificial Intelligence. In 2015, it introduced the 10 year Made In China 2025 plan to secure its position as a world superpower in the high-tech industry. It aims to reduce China's reliance on foreign technology imports and invests heavily in its own manufacturing capabilities.

Similarly in 2017, China initiated the Next Generation Artificial Intelligence Development Plan. The strategy is to build a domestic AI industry worth around \$150 billion permeating every sector. In 2020, China accounted for a quarter of all AI firms, second only to the US. However, according to the plan it intends to become the leading AI power by 2030 by building a complete Artificial Intelligence ecosystem.

These kinds of initiatives remove any sort of ambiguity regarding the government's stance about AI. It shows that this field is backed by the government and is worth investing in. The technological, political and the economic environment of the country has allowed it to catch up in record time. However, at a fundamental level there is still a lot of work to do to actualize the futuristic vision into reality. But China is determined, and is doing the groundwork right now to become the sole global powerhouse in the field of Artificial Intelligence ■



The writer is a graduate from University of London.

GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS

ECONOMIC SECURITY FOR PAKISTAN

By Sana Noor

Geographical Indications (GI) is a system of giving authenticity to products on the basis of their geographical origin and qualities they exhibit must be due to that particular region. To cater false trade descriptions, governments seek protection of the local products. France introduced Geographical Indication (GI) system for the first time in early 20th century in the form of Paris Convention and Lisbon Agreement. European Union has pursued efforts to improve the protection offered by GI. ”

PAKISTAN IS ON THE WAY TO ECONOMIC SECURITY BECAUSE GI ACT HAS ENABLED PAKISTAN TO CLAIM RIGHFUL OWNERSHIP OF ITS PRODUCTS AND AT THE SAME TIME GIVE BENEFIT TO THE LOCAL PROPRIETORS OF THESE PRODUCTS

The main goals of GI are (a) To provide legal security to the product by protecting

unauthorized usage of the product by other countries/ manufacturers; (b) Economic prosperity of the producer of the goods; (c) Assigning a type of collective control right to the producer either within or outside the relevant geographical area; and (d) Delegating the power to registered manufacturer/ producer/grower to initiate legal action against illegal usage of registered products. One of the most important conditions that most governments required before registering a name to GI is that the name must not already be in widespread use

as the generic name for a similar product.

In Pakistan importance of GI caught attention after India claimed Basmati rice as their product. Basmati Rice became a new element in the rivalry between India and Pakistan. The dispute initiated when India applied for the Protected GI tag for Basmati Rice in EU. EU has always been a lucrative market for Pakistani rice, Pakistan raised strong opposition to Indian claim and EU asked both the countries to settle the matter. The Basmati Rice claim dispute with India paved the way for domestic legislation to protect all Pakistani products. Pakistan enacted Geographical Indications Act (March 2020) to secure its products domestically and internationally. Under this act Basmati rice has been successfully registered, which has given Pakistan an edge to secure its claim of Basmati rice in EU.

GI is a novel concept in Pakistan, which is being dealt in a better way now as GI Cell has been established in Ministry of Commerce, with the sole task of securing and protecting the Pakistani products. It can be asserted that Pakistan is on the way to economic security because GI act has enabled Pakistan to claim rightful ownership of its products and at the same time give benefit to the local proprietors of these products. It is important to understand that GI will provide twofold benefits.

Along with exponentially increasing the sales for Pakistani products in the international markets, it will boost the tourism in the country as well. At the present GI tags, in the broader scenario, are being taken as the new national interest, which

has dominant presence in the economic debate within Pakistan.

The success of GI relies heavily on the careful specification of the products and the measures taken to implement effective marketing strategy. At the state level the importance of GI is highly prioritized in order to achieve the same from the domestic market, following relevant steps are of utmost importance:

- Product strategies: Tangible features and uniqueness of a product is described in a manner which is symbolic of its origin and people associated with it. The qualities of product must be aligned with the place of origin.
- Communication strategies: GI producers should consider building a series of message campaigns with consumers that highlight the link between their products and local development. It is necessary to develop an effective communication system for distant consumers who have no or little knowledge about the concept of GI. In this regard, trickle down method can be beneficial, where the state provides training to government institutions and the acquired knowledge through them can be passed on to the producer and consumer.
- Distribution strategies: The distribution of GI products among domestic consumers requires careful consideration because an unaware consumer about the GI tag will negatively affect the sale of GI product. The producers can adopt indirect method of distribution where intermediary

bodies, which are well versed with GI or can be trained, assist in the placement and logistics of GI products so that they reach consumers swiftly. In addition to that, it is also important to choose optimal locations based on the consumer preferences for the placement of GI products.

THE BASMATI RICE CLAIM DISPUTE WITH INDIA PAVED THE WAY FOR DOMESTIC LEGISLATION TO PROTECT ALL PAKISTANI PRODUCTS. PAKISTAN ENACTED GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS ACT (MARCH 2020) TO SECURE ITS PRODUCTS DOMESTICALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY

GI tag is a new form of economic constructivism, which is progressive in nature and inherently gives a new meaning to commerce and trade within Pakistan. The dispute of Basmati rice opened new fronts for Pakistan to manage leading to the adoption of a new strategy to safeguard its economic interests. Apart from specification of product as GI, the key task is to establish the definition of GI product in a manner which is conducive of human and physical attributes of that area, and then and only Pakistani products can penetrate through the international markets ■



The writer is Manager Research in Geographical Indications Cell, Ministry of Commerce Islamabad.



NATIONAL SECURITY POLICY OF PAKISTAN 2022-2026

By Nadia Sajjad

Pakistan since its independence has faced economic issues and the main factors responsible are political instability, lack of continuity in policies and poor governance. The country's unique geographical location hardly contributed to the economic development of Pakistan by maximizing intra-regional trade and investment programs. In past, many opportunities were lost due to India Pakistan tensions, the Afghan politics and Afghan Refugees, terrorism, political and economic patterns of the world. Current rate of economic development is low with increase in foreign debts, low level of foreign reserves and deficit in balance of payment. There is a need for such measures and policies with

which a common man enjoys a better standard of living with better opportunities for growth and development. There is a need to understand that economic policies should be based on intra-regional trade, investment in infrastructure and human development as the contemporary nature of warfare has changed. The time has come to devise methods by keeping in mind our financial strengths and weaknesses and by mapping out financial vulnerabilities.

The future economic development of Pakistan largely depends on the realization of the fact that with regional trade, investment, sound macroeconomic policies we can have economic development. The term economic security is in fact human security which means the country must have strong economic system to make its citizens self-sufficient and opportunities for living better life.

In case of Pakistan its National Security interests can be best served if the policy makers give due importance to economic aspects.

THE TERM ECONOMIC SECURITY IS IN FACT HUMAN SECURITY WHICH MEANS THE COUNTRY MUST HAVE STRONG ECONOMIC SYSTEM TO PROVIDE SELF SUFFICIENCY TO ITS CITIZENS AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR LIVING BETTER LIFE

Prime Minister Imran Khan stated that Economic Security is linked with citizen welfare and it carries central position in the National Security Policy of Pakistan. First time in the history of Pakistan the first ever National Security Policy of Pakistan described in terms of "guns vs butter" acknowledges human security as top priority

from economic perspective. The distinguished feature of Pakistan's National Security Policy is that it is not defined in terms of old and traditional security like defense, sovereignty and diplomacy, it is primarily based on holistic approach revolving around the human security and connectivity. In this context, to address economic issues effectively there is a need to invest more on Foreign Direct Investment and trade agreements by providing better room for training and exploration in various fields.

The new policy caught the attention of academics and analysts because it is more citizen centric approach and emphasizes on geo-economics. The policy interlinked traditional security with economic and human security and has more emphasis on interdependence by offering economics bases to its partner countries for development partnerships. It stressed on building win-win relationships in trade and investment including bilateral and multilateral engagements for strengthening regional connectivity and shared prosperity. The current government needs to be praised for designing a National Security Policy that emphasizes on geo-economics rather than geopolitics which was first introduced by the civil-military leadership. Moreover, in Pakistan's history non-traditional areas like climate change, northern glaciers impact, and COVID-19 impacts on economy were never addressed and seen from the lens of national security.

In NSP emerging threats like climate change, cyber security were viewed as a threat to economic security leading to national security. Government believes that by providing economic interdependency, availability of resources, better opportunities for agreements and exchanges with benefit both human welfare

and hard security initiatives can be achieved. The new multi-dimensional approach will bring development in the country in a swift manner if the programs are devised more smartly and peacefully with the tools of interdependence.

Pakistan has always wanted to maintain good and friendly relations with its neighbors by giving them mutual respect, collective effort and shared economic benefits which is vital for regional connectivity and regional prosperity. As discussed earlier, the NSP policy revolves around making Pakistan strong in economic terms and making it a hub of trade and investment by providing opportunities and seeking peace with the neighboring countries.

BY PLACING ECONOMIC SECURITY AT THE CORE OF NATIONAL SECURITY THE COUNTRY WILL SECURE ITS KEY OBJECTIVES

Pakistan's economic position will strengthen only if the country makes engagements at state and regional level in different sectors and takes advantage from its geographically important position in the region. By placing economic security at the core of national security the country will secure its key objectives. Furthermore, the country also seeks greater regional connectivity and integration through various networks like transit routes, trade agreements, energy networks, educational and scientific exchanges and collaboration.

With the new policy various long standing issues will be addressed like higher foreign exchange outflow/overflow with main focus on export based foreign directive investment and remittances. The disparities in economic

development between various countries and citizens of the region can be removed by creating more developmental programs, policies and activities that seek for sustaining long-term growth.

Pakistan's clean energy will reach sixty percent by 2030 for meeting the target laid down in the context of sustainable regional connectivity vision. Pakistan can strengthen energy security by reducing energy imports and by prioritizing investments in renewable sources. Pakistan is also eager to give abundance of energy to Central Asian states and connect with them through economic initiatives.

The only thing that justifies the fair implementation is the level of resources and budget allocated to each area as compared to military spending. Another important thing is providing clean energy technologies which are cleaner, economically viable and secure and share installed clean energy technologies. The National Security Policy is a milestone for Pakistan based on human centric economic development rather than traditional military security. Pakistan can attain its policy objectives only when the programs and initiatives are made and designed with deeper understanding of climate realities and trade opportunities from domestic and regional point of view. The policy's success lies in the fact that the guidelines and directions for the implementation must be based on win-win situation by keeping in mind the maximization of benefits at regional and national level ■



The writer is pursuing her PhD in International Relations at University of Peshawar.

Scallion Pancakes

the Chinese Parathay

By Zainab Sajid



Good food is, very often, even most often, simple food.
- Anthony Bourdain.

The simplest combination of bread and butter is supreme but for us desi people, there exists a god-tier version of the same namely paratha, the heart and soul of Pakistani cuisine. An unleavened layered flatbread shallow fried in clarified butter aka ghee is a game-changer and adds to the richness of any dish. It is often categorized as a breakfast mainly because it is a high energy food that keeps one full for longer.

It goes well with anything and everything. The iconic pairing with chai (tea), achar (oil pickle), sweetened yoghurt, bhuna qeema (slow-cooked spiced mince) and fried egg is unmatched but neither its combinations end here nor the different versions of parathas. This food is equally cherished in our neighbouring countries including but not limited to India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Malaysia.

The word paratha is derived from two words, 'parat' and 'atta' meaning layers of cooked dough. By this definition, we find similar dishes throughout different cultures and cuisines, one being Chinese "cong you bing or scallion pancakes". Its essence lies in its simplicity and relies on the sharp peppery flavour of scallions and nuttiness of sesame oil.

For me, it is a step-up from our regular Pakistani paratha in its flavour profile meanwhile retaining its ease of cooking. Traditionally eaten as an entrée, it pairs well with a light crunchy cucumber salad and soy chilli dipping sauce. My preferred way is to enjoy it with a simple cheese omelette and especially, with Ramadan coming and limited Sehri options, I would urge you to give this version of paratha a try and you will be pleasantly surprised. Bon Appetit!

Ingredients:

- Flour- 2 cups
- Sesame oil- 3 tbsp
- White sesame seeds- 1 tbsp
- Boiling water- ½ cup
- Scallions/Green onions- 4 stalks
- Sesame oil or cooking oil - for frying
- Salt- ½ tsp



Method:

1. In a bowl with flour and salt, gradually add boiling hot water while continuously mixing it with a wooden spoon until all the dry flour is well combined and big lumps of rough dough form.
2. Knead this mixture with your hand on a flat surface that is covered lightly with flour. Knead until a smooth supple dough forms. Let this rest for 20 mins.
3. Divide this mixture into three equal portions and form balls.
4. Roll out the dough ball as flat as possible.
5. Spread one tbsp of sesame oil on top of the flattened sheet.
6. Evenly spread thinly sliced green onions (white and green part both) and sesame seeds along with it.
7. Now roll the sheet from one side and keep rolling until a log is formed.
8. Slightly press and close the log from the ends and lightly stretch to make it longer and thinner.
9. Coil the log into a round shape. Now flatten the coil into an even thin circle like you would any other flatbread or paratha.
10. In a medium-hot pan, cook the pancake in some oil until both sides are golden and crispy. Repeat with remaining dough.



The writer is an anthropology graduate from LUMS and is working in the field of food anthropology. She maintains a food blog on Instagram, [fooddays_withzainab](#).





January 5, 2022: India Study Centre at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad hosted a round table titled, 'Commemorating Kashmiris' Right to Self-Determination Day.'



January 17, 2022: A meeting of researchers of Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad and Institute of Regional Studies was held at Foreign Ministry headed by Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi.



January 31, 2021: Executive Director of Executive Development Institute at the National School of Public Policy, Mr. Ahmad Nazir Waraich, visited the ISSI and discussed with the DG, Ambassador Aizaz A. Chaudhry possibilities of cooperation between the two institutions.



February 2, 2022: DG Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad Ambassador. Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry was conferred with honorary membership of the Romanian Institute for European-Asian Studies (IRSEA) in a Virtual Award Ceremony. Award was presented by President IRSEA Ambassador. Gheorghe SAVUICA.



February 2, 2022: Director General Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad, Ambassador. Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry gave an interview to Mr. Israr Kisana in Canada. The discussion focused on the importance of the forthcoming visit of PM of Pakistan H.E. Imran Khan to China.



February 18, 2022: Director General at The Governor House Lahore.



February 21, 2022: China Pakistan Study Centre at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad hosted a virtual meeting with Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore (ISAS). Ambassador Aizaz Chaudhry, DG ISSI led the ISSI team, while Associate Professor Iqbal Singh Sevea led the ISAS delegation.



February 21, 2022: Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East & Africa at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad held a Roundtable and Exhibition in collaboration with the Embassy of Islamic Republic of Iran- Islamabad and Iran-Pakistan Institute of Persian Studies titled 'Darakht-e-Dosti, Epitomizing Pak-Iran Relationship: Celebrating Linguistic Linkages'.



February 21, 2022: The Centre for Strategic Perspectives at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad organized a webinar on 'The State Bank of Pakistan Amendment Act 2021.'

Guest speaker: Dr. Ishrat Husain, Former Governor, State Bank of Pakistan. The talk was moderated by Dr. Neelum Nigar, Director CSP, ISSI.



February 22, 2022: China-Pakistan Study Centre at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad in collaboration with Embassy of Uzbekistan and the Institute of Strategic and Regional Studies under the President of Uzbekistan organized an online seminar.



February 28, 2022: The Arms Control and Disarmament Centre at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad organized its 'Annual Advisory Board Meeting' to review the annual performance of the Centre and provide overall policy directions.'



March 3, 2022: India Study Centre at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad organized its second 'Annual Advisory Board Meeting' to review the performance of the Centre and to provide overall policy directions for the current year. The members of the ISC advisory board attended the meeting.



March 7, 2022: The Centre for Strategic Perspectives at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad organised a Roundtable titled, 'Role of Women in Socio-Economic Development of Pakistan.' The event was part of the International Womens Day celebration.



March 9, 2022: The Centre for Strategic Perspectives at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad organized a Panel Discussion on 'Economic Security & Geo-Economics: Challenges & Opportunities for Pakistan.' This event was conducted in the context of 2nd Islamabad Dialogue that will take place on April 1-2, 2022.



March 11, 2022: Centre for Afghanistan Middle East & Africa held its annual Advisory Board meeting. Participants joined the meeting both physically and virtually.



March 11, 2022, Ms. Kerstin Grüener, HQ Desk Officer for Pakistan visited the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad. Ms. Grüener was accompanied by Hans Seidel Foundation Pakistan's Resident Representative Dr. Steffen Kudella & Ms. Meher Ghawas, Head of Program Management.



Russia does not need Beijing's support for actions in Ukraine, says China

As Russia launches an operation in Ukraine, prompting outrage and sanctions from the US and several other nations in the West, China has indicated that an „independent power“ like Russia does not need Beijing's backing for actions in Ukraine, clarifying that it was not supporting nor condemning Moscow for its actions.

„As for the US suggestion that Russia has China's backing to act, I believe Russia will be very unhappy to hear such a statement,“ Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying told the media during a regular press briefing, according to a report by RT. Relations between China and Russia were based on non-alignment, non-confrontation and non-targeting of third parties, she said, adding that „China is not interested in, and has no intention of following, the Cold War mentality of either friend or foe.“ According to the RT report, Chunying

stressed the need for strengthening strategic communication and coordination between Russia and China, adding that Moscow and Beijing should also firmly safeguard the system in which the UN played a core role for coordination in international affairs.

Dawn, February 24, 2022

Pakistan, Uzbekistan Agree to Boost Youth Coop, S&T Linkages

President Dr Arif Alvi and President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev have agreed to enhance cooperation between the youth and promote science and technology linkages between the two countries. This emerged during the meeting of President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev with President Arif Alvi at Awan-e-Sadr.

The two leaders exchanged views on a wide range of issues of bilateral interest and important regional and international matters.

President Alvi expressed satisfaction on the upward trajectory of bilateral ties and reiterated the desire to promote multifaceted cooperation in all spheres, including political, trade, economic, defence, security, connectivity, education and cultural exchanges.

The Nation, March 5, 2022



China fights severest COVID-19 outbreaks with swift responses



As China faces its severest domestic COVID-19 outbreaks in two years with a record 1,807 new cases reported on Sunday, the country has launched a swift response to contain the virus spread, including allowing rapid antigen tests for public use and sacking senior officials for their slack response to the ongoing health crisis.

The latest spikes in Northeast China's Jilin, East China's Shandong, South China's Guangdong provinces, Shanghai and Beijing municipalities, which forced several major cities to go into lockdowns, saw a sharp rise in the number of asymptomatic patients. Epidemiologists and observers pointed out that based on the abundant experience China had accumulated in the previous battles and the dynamic zero-COVID policy, which has proven to be effective in curbing severe cases and deaths, it is tougher for the country to win

the battle this time, as „victory“ not only means the containment of new cases, but also minimizing the impact on the economy and livelihoods.

Global Times, March 13, 2022

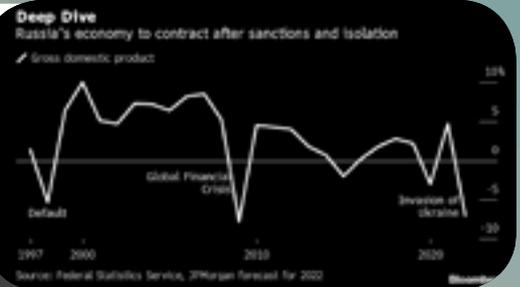
Central Asia Faces Financial Chaos As Russia's Economy Collapses

Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the Western sanctions in response have left former Soviet states in Central Asia facing economic chaos. Since Vladimir Putin launched his war on February 24, the ruble has collapsed by 50 percent with no bottom in sight. Russia has enacted currency controls reminiscent of the early 1990s and telegraphed plans to default on foreign debtholders. The uncertainty is gripping Central Asia, where Russia is a top trading partner and the source of critical remittances. Local currencies rise and fall with the ruble. In short, Central Asia's economies are highly exposed to Russia.

Kazakhstan was the first to respond to the crisis, raising its baseline interest rate from 10.25 percent to 13.5 percent just hours after the war began.. Uzbekistan has left its baseline interest rate unchanged at 14 percent, having cut it by 100 basis points last September amid signs that efforts to tame inflation sparked by the 2017 liberalization of its currency, the sum, were finally succeeding.

Despite the lack of interest rate action, the sum has, in contrast to the tenge, lost little of its value against the US dollar since Putin's invasion. The Uzbek Central Bank has not announced any formal currency interventions, though they are all but certain to be underway. The sum stands at 10,900 to the dollar – down from 10,850 a month ago, a fall of just 0.5 percent. Over the same time, the ruble has fallen over 45 percent against the som from 150 to 80 som-per-ruble.

CGTN, December 21, 2021





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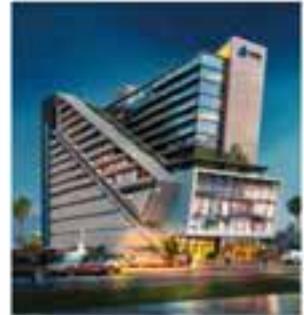
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