

# THE ROLE OF PAKISTAN IN THE REGIONAL SECURITY - ADHERING TO THE CHINESE GEOPOLITICAL STRATEGY

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## ABSTRACT

“On 21<sup>st</sup> June 2024, at the third meeting of the Sino-Pakistan Joint Consultative Mechanism (JCM), the Chinese Minister of the International Department of the Communist Party of China (IDCPC) and member of the Communist Party Central Committee Liu Jianchao underlined the imminent essentiality of internal stability for Pakistan’s journey towards peoples’ prosperity”. He emphasized the necessity of building Pakistan’s image as a responsible nation at the geopolitical stage which is confronting a dilemma since its inception in 1947 that has claimed hundreds of thousands innocent civilian lives and thousands of armed forces personnel, an irreparable loss to the nation while contemplating foreign powers’ interests. But, the first-ever historic aspect of this meeting was an extraordinary consent demonstrated by all national political parties on “the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)” while setting their unbridgeable differences aside. Every leader reiterated his party’s unwavering stance to further the Sino-Pakistan development projects under the umbrella of time-tested bilateral relations. This is, indeed, the most iconic development in the entire history in which Pakistan’s leaning towards China beyond a dictated level has always been considered a serious threat to the United States and its allies’ multifaceted interests in the region. Amidst this turbulent scenario of uncertainty, especially prevalent in South Asia, Pakistan already confronting internal and external security challenges, needs to voyage through turbulent waters having treacherous shores; an endeavour not to repeat its calamitous past. In the wake of extremely fragile security environment, the aim of this study paper is to highlight the efficacy of Chinese domain of International Relations encompassing their peculiar concept of regional / international security which, portraying Quaid-e-Azam’s vision for prosperous nation, is expected to resolve Pakistan’s internal / external issues related to the well-being of its people.

**Keywords:** The Sino-Pakistan Relation, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), The Chinese Concept of Security

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1. **Introduction:** “Perpetual peace is a mirage” (Haque, 2024), an acutely relevant assertion under the prevalent geopolitical environment heralding the culmination of “United States’ (US) Liberal International Order” (Jentleson, 2018) in the wake of fast-rising China, not merely to compete rather lead the US along with its allies, especially in critical technologies that had once accorded unmatched edge to Americans over rest of the world (Hurst, 2023). Besides, China is expected to surpass the US as the largest global economy in the next decade (Liu, 2022). According to the International Monetary Fund’s (IMF) World Economic Report along with numerous credible sources, Chinese have already outpaced Americans to claim the status of the largest global economy (IMF Update, 2024). Employing the most pertinent criterion, termed as Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) (Giles, 2023), Chinese’ total economy has reached at \$24.2 trillion juxtaposed to \$20.8 trillion for Americans. The IMF data endorsed by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Report, the Chinese economy is one-sixth larger than the American economy (Allison, 2020). Evidently, an era of ‘status quo’ imposed by the US and its allies in the garb of so-called ‘Liberal International System’ after the First Cold War has razed to the ground (Mearsheimer, 2019). Amidst this arena of international politics, it is a proven reality that powerful economic base is the foundation of military prowess (Kapstei, 1989), a direct product of material resources, measured in terms of the magnitude of national defense budget, military men, material and means augmented by the gross domestic product (GDP). The quintessence of economic prosperity is nothing but the efficient production guaranteed by solid industrial base administered by skilled manpower from military and civilian sources. China capitalised on this crucial aspect and successfully contemplated the amalgamation of civilian and military realms as one consolidated entity aimed at creating a highly potent military (Beckley, 2010), one of the most critical organs of any country’s foreign policy (Drab, 2018). While there exists unanimity among geopolitical scientists that economic prosperity enhances a nation’s status as a power guaranteed by its potential to raise competitive military component, still the peace would remain a delusion, thus shattering the dream of Immanuel Kant (Kant I., 1795). So, according to the ‘International Theory’, great power competition turning into a war is imminent (Kroenig, 2022). This dilemma has led experts to advise the US to prepare for war with China and Russia rather pivoting towards Asia at the cost of Europe (Kroenig, 2022). This is the geopolitical environment under which Pakistan has to adopt a viable course for its security. In this context, there are two glaring examples in the South Asia. Prime Minister Haseena Wajid’s refusal to lease Saint Martin’s Island to the US prompted her ouster followed by ongoing mass disorder in the country (Online, 2024). Besides, India has repeatedly put aside the US sanctions against Russia and Iran and, boldly refused to sacrifice its national interests reflecting the de-prioritisation of the US-India relations (White, 2015). Pakistan has also obviated any prospects of sacrificing its time-tested relations with China at the altar of closeness to the US which always hinged at ‘zero-sum relationships’ tilted towards the US (Dawn Staff Reporter, 2024). The repercussions of this principled stance are distinctly visible. Pakistan is in a state of ‘undeclared asymmetric war’ against foreign funded and harboured terrorists who are equipped with state of the art

weaponry and equipment coupled with extensive involvement of the US and its allies in the domestic politics of Pakistan.

2. **Aim:** The aim of this study is to explore the role of Pakistan in the regional security of South Asia in accordance with China's geopolitical strategy based on the Tianxia philosophy advocating the 'Harmonious World'; all under heaven.

3. **Structure of the Study:** This study encompasses the following aspects:

- China-Pakistan Relations in the Post-Cold War Era
- China's Tianxia Philosophy - All under Heaven (The Harmonious World)
- China's Concept of Regional Security related to South Asia
- Role of Pakistan in the Regional Security of South Asia
- Pakistan and China's Global Security Initiative

4. **Literature Review:** 'Regional Security' emerged as the foremost dilemma for a newly created state of Pakistan in 1947 when it was widely predicted by the pundits of geopolitics; most notably Jawaharlal Nehru and Vallabhbhai Patel about its re-amalgamation into India due to the visible signs of its meagre resources to survive (Mahajan, 2013). Under this compelling scenario, on May 19, 1954, Pakistan and the United States of America concluded a "Mutual Defense Assistance Agreement (MDAA)" that pledged the US to provide military hardware and training to the armed forces of Pakistan (Hagerty, 1986). Subsequently, "the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO)" and "the Baghdad Pact", later "the Central Treaty Organization (CENTO)" formed parts of the US' anti-Communism strategy during the Cold War era in which Pakistan was a 'Frontline State'. This development led Pakistan to be recognised as one of the proxies of the US led west which was pursuing their strategic objectives in Asia, especially in the Middle East. Its neighbours; USSR, China, India and Afghanistan turned abrasive towards Pakistan. Most devastatingly, Pakistan's image in the Muslim world went tarnished, especially among the socialist bloc led by Egypt and Syria. This peculiar angle of Pakistan's diplomatic history still haunts; a shade which India exploited to its best advantage. In the meantime, it is a historical fact that Americans were 'recognisably' indifferent to Muslims' struggle for their independent homeland, Pakistan (Balouch, 2015) but, the post-World War II environments forced them to realise the need of a defensive line against the USSR which could invade India as anticipated by the British strategists who had already remedied the problem by recommending and subsequently creating a 'scientific frontier' which was later known as Pakistan (Andrew, 1880). This 'geostrategic compulsion' led Americans to opt for the '*marriage of convenience*' with Pakistan while the latter was desperately in search of a shelter (Chaudhri, 1956). In fact, the American administration of the time was overwhelmingly inclined towards Indian National Congress and, opposed to the British scheme of partition of India (Rosinger, 1950) (Brands, 2008). Despite India's reluctance to ally with the US against the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) coupled with Jawaharlal Nehru's unflinching resolve to be the spearhead of non-aligned movement, the former never superseded India at even the barest cost of Pakistan (Rajagopalan, 2024). That US policy towards South Asia is still intact in which India is distinctly dominating Pakistan, however, due to solid geostrategic reasons (Waseem, 2024). This factor must never be ignored that despite Pakistan's unmatched support / participation in the Afghan War which the western media orchestrated as '*the holy jihad against the infidel*' (1979-1988)

followed by the wholehearted involvement in the war on terrorism (2001), Pakistan failed out rightly to replace India in the US foreign policy. There are innumerable studies on the US foreign policy related to South Asia amidst the complex India-Pakistan relations. It is an undeniable fact, since its inception in 1947 that Pakistan's national security has remained under turmoil due to multiple internal reasons; predominantly by corruption and maladministration. This situation caused perpetual political disturbance, a scenario that prevented the stabilisation of democratic order. However, one factor amidst this imbroglio that leads to fragile security must not be ignored which is '*foreign interference*'. All critical analyses of assassinations (Dar, 2020), sprees of violence involving mass killings and political / non-political disturbances have one common finding; somewhat defiance or refusal to be dictated by foreign power(s) led to the occurrences of aforementioned incidents reflecting reactions / repercussions (Hussain, 2022) (Balouch , 2015). This finding is augmented by a Gallup poll that more than 72% of citizens in Pakistan consider the United States as an adversary rather than a friend (Sattar, 2022) because it is strongly felt in the general public that the US-Pakistan relations are based on '*zero sum game*' phenomenon in which Pakistan was and, even still is nothing more than a proxy (Perkovich, 1996). This was the scenario which prompted President Muhammad Ayub Khan to write '*Friends Not Masters*' (Ziauddin , 2018) and switch over to China, a venture in which Prime Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto played the pivotal role (Khan, 2011). Precisely, two prominent causes have prompted Pakistan to tilt towards China which has always rendered concrete multifaceted support to Pakistan whenever it was in a sheer need. The first one is the '*zero sum game*' phenomenon in the US-Pakistan relations in which Americans dictate their terms while the second is the US-India strategic relations (Yousaf , 2022). Based on appraisal of this literature review, it is distinctly obvious that China-Pakistan relations possess ample potential to address rather circumvent issues related to the security of South Asia which have emerged amidst the changing international order (Staff, 2022).

**5. Research Methodology:** Predominantly, this study is based on descriptive research method with more focus on qualitative rather than the quantitative methodology due to the peculiar nature of social sciences in which the possibility of controlled and well-predicted outcome of geopolitical environment barely exists. Precisely, the study encompasses the unfolding of salient geostrategic developments gleaned from previous studies by renowned academic institutions, international affairs think tanks and forums, professional organisations and institutions, credible media sources and interviews of world class social scientists on the subject, surveys, observations, all of which suggest decision makers to take steps in the best interest of the nation. Although, the detail or data have been collected and collated qualitatively, but it has also been analysed sparingly by employing quantitative method, using averages, frequencies and percentages of geopolitical developments within a certain period of time in order to determine Pakistan relation with the US as well as China. However, being more qualitative in nature, the study is more holistic which is based on the rich collection of data from multiple sources to acquire deeper understanding of future prospects of regional security in South Asia assigning a concrete role for Pakistan. The study commences with the time when Pakistan came into existence during the Cold War with a purpose to highlight hardships which this nation confronted among which '*the existential threat*' to its survival was the foremost. This historical segment adds to its qualitative characteristics.

6. **China-Pakistan Relations in the Post-Cold War Era:** Irrespective of the nature or status of geo-political environment in the world, especially the South Asia, the regional security has always been rather continues to be the prime concern of Pakistan due to its geographic location coupled with demographic nature (Shabbir, 2021). In this particular context, India is undeniably the most dominating factor (Dwivedi, 2008). In addition, Afghanistan emerged as a potent threat to Pakistan (Bakhsh, Rab, & Faiz, 2024) which can turn into an existential dilemma for the nation. As mentioned earlier, the national security was the top priority compulsive factor that dictated Pakistan to join in the Cold War imbroglio against the USSR. However, after the formal dissolution of USSR on 26<sup>th</sup> December 1991, the Pakistan-US relations nose-dived. The US downgraded Pakistan's status as a frontline state (Mahmood, 1997). This scenario pushed Pakistan towards China despite nation's westernized elite who have their so-called investments in terms of billions of US Dollars in European and American banks (Abbas, 2018). Undoubtedly, the envied history of China-Pakistan relation is based on 'five coveted principles<sup>1</sup> of co-existence' (Burke, 1973). In fact, it was the Bandung Conference (Indonesia) in 1955 when Pakistan's Prime Minister Mohammad Ali Bogra assured Zhou Enlai, the Chinese prime minister that if the US resorts to some aggressive action against China, Pakistan would remain neutral (Rais, 1977). However, environment of mutual respect vanished quickly, declining their relations to the lowest ebb in 1959, exclusively due to uncondusive policies adopted by Pakistan's ruling class which did not represent the general public opinion rather it was the American dictation which poised to create yet another belligerent alongside the USSR and India (Akhtar, 2014). However, the time-tested China-Pakistan camaraderie after a spell of upheavals generated by the west entered the 21<sup>st</sup> century with renewed expectations based on mutual interests with bearing on the fast emerging regional and global scenario to embrace common challenges. The relations having significant impact on geopolitics demand new spheres of cooperation (Khan & Kasi, 2017). Pakistan - China bilateral policy focuses wholesomely on bolstering alliance in all quarters of mutual interest rather benefit, but never at the cost of other countries; especially the neighbouring states which are expressing their concern with regard to their security. In 2015, the Chinese President Xi Jinping affirmed China's commitment to stand by Pakistan; '*China's iron brother*' in its pursuance for greater objectives of socio-economic developments and prosperity. He quoted one of the foremost proponents of a separate homeland for Muslims in South Asia, Allama Muhammad Iqbal who in 1930 predicted grandeur rise of the Chinese nation, custodian of the only surviving human civilisation (Correspondent, 2015) (Siddiqui, 2020). The most important aspect in Pakistan - China relations is people to people liking for each other. About 75% of public in Pakistan consider China's influence pragmatic and conducive that that of the US which is reputed to be engaged in internal affairs of Pakistan. In October 2022, the US President Joe Biden assessed Pakistan as 'the most dangerous nation'

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<sup>1</sup> *These five principles of co-existence are:*

- *respect for territorial integrity and independence of any nation,*
- *all types of non-aggression; military and non-military,*
- *every type of non-interference in internal affairs of any nation,*
- *mutual equality and co-operation for peoples' prosperity,*
- *honourable peaceful co-existence*

*China has always emphasized on these principle in its foreign policy.*

in possession of nuclear arsenal which seem to be devoid of any cohesion. Presently, Americans are mapping out their relations with Pakistan on the basis of '*transactional current affairs*', predominantly encompassing terrorism & counter-terrorism, neutral stance on Russia-Ukraine War, reinvigoration of relations with Iran, preferential bilateral relations with China, and exploring wide-ranging venues including the defence related matters leading to collaboration with Russia, all possess Pakistan's 'adverse' relevance to the US and its allies. Concurrently, the '*tried and true*' Pakistan - China relations have further spanned beyond politicians to politicians, administration to administration, armed forces to armed forces, multifaceted industries to industries, but the most phenomenal aspect is the people to people relations; a phenomenon which remained a mirage in case of Pakistan - US relations. Beside, progress of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in the wake of declared US opposition have consolidated this 'multi-faceted geostrategic partnership' to the great annoyance of the pro-west elite. In a nutshell, China and Pakistan relations are on a concrete and ever-pragmatic trajectory (Haque , 2022). According to a number of surveys, about 73% Chinese citizens hold the third-most positive opinion of Pakistan's influence in the world. In the meantime, China is the most popular country among the general public of Pakistan despite the fact that local media along with Indian and western media have waged negative propaganda against China (Standish, 2022) (Globescan , 2014) (Turcsanyi, 2022).

**7. China's Tianxia Philosophy - All under Heaven (The Harmonious World):** Tianxia, in ancient China, signified the geographical space '*divinely bestowed upon*' the Chinese supreme leader (suzerain) by the universal principles of order. According to the Tianxia philosophy, the royal court of the Middle Kingdom (China) sovereign serves as the pivot, positioning himself centrally and, subsequently fanning outward to engulf the whole world and consolidate his rule. This broad concept of Tianxia can be considered analogous to the civilisation (Shih & Huang, 2014). Under the prevalent geopolitical circumstances, the Chinese intelligentsia, this particular philosophy presents an alternative international order to western-oriented world order which focuses on the state-centric context whereas the Tianxian system encompasses the world as one whole entity (Huang & Shih, 2013). It advocates that the most critical geo-political dilemma is not about 'failed states' rather it is the world which has crumbled (Tingyang , 2006). Visualising realistically, it is the self-interest that generates coercion, manipulation and blackmailing of the weaker by the stronger states, thus creating deliberate global imbalance in order to retain perpetuity for armed conflicts. Therefore, it is never the calamity faced by failed states but a globally collective effort which is imminent for the harmonious. The new world order necessarily merits to proceed beyond the futility of state-centric perspectives. Besides, there exists the need of a unanimously agreed system based on win-win situation which professes universal values instead of vested interests of dominant powers (Tingyang , 2009). In this particular context, the Tianxia philosophy proposes a '*supranational organisation*' for world governance in order to establish and, subsequently maintain perpetual peace. Correspondingly, this global administration should be entrusted to an organisation or entity with the responsibility to act like an institution rather than a conventional empire (Tingyang , 2005) which would be duty-bound to regulate regimes by adhering to the universal rules as an alternative to the United Nations which is considered as a contemplation of an outdated rather a flawed system (Şahin, 2021).

8. **China's Concept of Regional Security related to South Asia:** Commencing with effect from early 1990s; after decades of exhaustive yet pragmatic deliberations, the Chinese military and non-military strategists developed and, subsequently articulated, not a new, rather renewed the ancient concept of multifaceted security prevalent in the Middle Kingdom at the time of its zenith (Baiyi, 2001). Presently, the concept widens the scope of security by incorporating political, defence, diplomatic and, predominantly the economic preferences. Fundamentally, Chinese pursue 'all-round' security for the purpose of sustained development. The nature of this policy is comprehensively non-confrontational, conducive and exceptionally accommodative. In this specific regard, there are two distinct factors which this concept prioritises side by side. The first and the foremost is the economic security equating with its political counterpart. The second factor which is immersed with the first one, is the strong inter-relationship between internal (domestic) and external (foreign) security. Under this pretext, any development occurring around the Chinese territories / borders definitely draws China's prompt and concerted response leaving nothing to any opportunity which is exploited the competing power (Thayer, 2013). The concept advocates 'regional-security mechanism for pro-active collaboration and cooperation at all possible levels, by means of maximum channels and in multifarious forms'. In this particular respect, in July 2000, China's Vice President Hu Jintao, while addressing the Indonesian Council of World Affairs, highlighted the congenial nature of the Chinese envisaged regional security mechanism (Le, 2023) according to which it espouses the universal principles of equitability, impartiality, egalitarianism, non-discrimination, even-handedness, fairness, accommodation, cooperation, justice and, the most of all, mutual / collective trust and honesty. He emphasised the imminence of dialogue based on mutual faith and trust to enhance the confidence level. This order should create the environment of genuine mutual respect, mutual cohesiveness, consensus through consultation and peaceful resolution of all disagreements and contentious issues while discarding coercive, manipulative and confrontational tactics aimed at imposing own will upon others. He staunchly advocated the concept of mutual co-existence for purpose of collective benefit where the element of 'zero sum game' does not exist, at all. Proven historically, this is how nation states coexist in harmoniousness and concord to ensure their peoples' prosperity and development (der Schulenburg, 2018). In September 1999, Chinese President Jian Zemin addressed a forum in Bangkok and assertively denounced the hegemonic strategy of pre-dominance and power politics which cause turbulence in the international political and economic arenas (Bhattacharya, 2018). He vehemently criticized the 'Gunboat Policy'<sup>2</sup> augmented with the economic neo-colonialism sought by some powers; the design that severely undermine the sovereignty and genuine national interests of other states (News, 1999).

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<sup>2</sup> The term "gunboat diplomacy" originates from the 19<sup>th</sup> period of imperialism when western colonial powers including the US would coerce or terrorise weaker states to secure concessions by means of demonstrations of military capabilities. The ongoing spree of terrorist activities in Pakistan present the most glaring example of 'Gunboat Policy' aimed at preventing Pakistan from China Pakistan Economic Corridor project. In this regard, a number of politicians, businessmen, bureaucrats, and media personnel with their personal interests aligned with the west, especially the US form a potent part of this diplomacy.

9. **Role of Pakistan in the Regional Security of South Asia:** On its emergence, Pakistan's national security policy was bifurcated into segments. One possessed anti-Communism orientation as an ally of the US led west distinctly against the USSR and, subsequently opposed to China while the second component of the policy was India-centric (Abbas K. , 2024). Despite the fact that security was the foremost concern for a newly created state with highly fragile economy coupled with drastically meagre resources for the defence, the leadership chose to board in two boats sailing in opposite direction in the tumultuous waters of the Cold War. When President Eisenhower parleyed with President Muhammad Ayub Khan in December 1959 in Karachi, he was absolutely clear and straightforward in his priorities in which Communism was the antecedent factor with regard to the security of the democratic / liberal world. He did not subscribe to Pakistani leadership's opinion about India as an existential threat to them (Historian, 1959). This was the greatest dilemma in the history of national security marred by irreconcilable perceptions between the US and Pakistan. Ironically, this scenario existed till the eclipse of Cold War. This was the reason which prevented the cementation of Pakistan-US relations.

10. After the dissolution of USSR, China surfaced as a pre-eminent competitor of the US. Understandably, the US-China rivalry / confrontation / competition or whatever experts term it, it appeared to be a quandary for Pakistan. However, the smog has been cleared. The US has chosen India as its strategic partner apparently against China. Rationally, it is a blessing in disguise for Pakistan choose a side between the US and China. In this regard, even a street hawker loitering on a foot-path acknowledges that China has always been at the forefront to drag Pakistan out of troubles (Syed , 2024). In the light of China's renewed concept of multifaceted security, Pakistan also seems to have adopted a comprehensive approach towards the national security, which aims at pursuing the goal of people's security as an ultimate objective, political security as the foundational assignment, economic security as an elemental factor while socio-cultural security as an instrument of assurance in order to guarantee international security as an imminent structure that consists of both internal and external security. This Chinese concept is nothing but a clear-cut departure from the Westphalian mechanism of security which hinges at the state security. But, according to the refine thinking, peoples' security is accorded preference along with traditional and non-traditional security as a solution to pave the way for universal security. Pakistan as an all-time strategic partner pursues to enhance cooperation to enrich the connotation of China-Pakistan community with a shared future (Zaidong, 2024). Another salient feature of China's policy is its '*exclusive bilateralism*' which is never directed against any third country. China's geopolitical and diplomatic history is replete with innumerable examples since 1949. Presently, China is the most sought power in Afro-Asia (Liang, 2012).

11. **Pakistan and China's Global Security Initiative:** The post-Cold War era signals the departure of redundant concepts in the arena of geopolitics; especially the security in which personnel security is the top-priority assignment. The fact remains that even according to divine concepts people are the substratum of a nation's development. The leadership at all levels of a state machinery has unquestionable responsibility to ensure the security of people in terms of their physical, psycho-social, cultural, religious, socio-political and socio-economic rights in order to 'not only facilitate rather capacitate' them to be an upright and



honourable member of the society. In this particular regard, every citizen of Pakistani must not ignore that China is the singular most country which is contributing in Pakistan's gigantic nation building ventures amidst life-threats to its highly skilled and world-class workforce. While their contribution deserves a wholehearted acclamation but the most important aspect is a need of unflinching resolve to crush those proxies among nation's ranks who are pursuing foreign agenda to retain a grip over Pakistan despite the fact that people of Pakistan wish to shun their calamitous past for the promising future. Undoubtedly, the China-Pakistan 'rain-or-shine' strategic collaboration which is fast-developing into the 'Sino-Pak' community with a shared future is the most unique opportunity for nation's young generation whose immense potentials must be exploited (Gunness , 2019).

12. Concurrently, economic security is also one of the principle constituents for any nation's prosperity (Walker, 2011). Security is the foundation of an evolutionary process that leads to growth of human and material resources for development, blossoming of peoples' living standards reflecting their prosperity, and burgeoning of national economic prowess projecting nation's status in the world. But, a dominant component of oligarchy perceives this mechanism as a threat to their hegemonic designs; contemplation of colonial mindset. In this particular, Pakistan's development like all states of the world, especially those of Afro-Asia means the most formidable multifarious security; a 'linchpin' to regional security issues. Unequivocally, China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), as a cardinal signature venture within the domain of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), assertively promotes Pakistan's comprehensive prosperity (Xu, 2022) to the elites' chagrin fearing the loss of power and authority. Despite blatant terrorism, Chinese brothers and sisters are committed to remain engaged with their counterparts in Pakistan to prevail rather vanquish the devilish designs of rogue elements bred by foreign hands. The sole solution lies in the furtherance of international security as an integral support as envisaged by Barry Buzan. Besides, China has proposed the Global Security Initiative, proposing the concept of a community with a shared objectives in the field of security (Chadha & Mehta, 2022) (Xin, 2024). Under the prevalent fragile security environment, China and Pakistan can jointly implement the Global Security Initiative guaranteeing secure region. Both states should strengthen counter-terrorism and security cooperation to decisively defeat rampant terrorists.

13. **Conclusion:** China Pakistan strategic collaboration is a game changer, especially for the young generation of Pakistan. Relying on the renewed era of bilateral relations, particularly the student community must benefit from exchanges and cooperation in various educational fields. Strategically, China has always been favourable to contemplate a comprehensive and integrated approach to the national security, thereby promoting the Global Security Initiative for palpable outcomes. The 'Sino-Pak' community being neighbours to each other have shared future coupled with common interests under the 'win-win situation'. The people of Pakistan must not ignore that Pakistan will be connected to majority of Afro-Asian states which interlinked by means of BRI. People will have far-convenient accessibility to Central Asia, Southeast Asia and most importantly, Africa and Latin America through BRI to explore wide ranging opportunities in businesses.

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