

THE NEXUS BETWEEN TRADITIONAL AND NONTRADITIONAL SECURITY POLICY OF CHINA

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Abstract

The security relations of states have always been conducted and observed through a realist lens, i.e. power politics, military alliances or competitions. The last two decades have changed dimensions of state politics in a profound way. The phenomena of globalization and war on terror with subsequent shifts in economic relations among states of different region are bound to have effect on Chinese security policy as well. This paper aims to understand the nexus between questions of traditional and non-traditional security in Chinese policy of cooperation. The regional relationship of China with its neighbours has been contentious and reserve in past. However, since the 1990s, the dynamics of socio-economic and political environment in East Asia is also changing. It is thus necessary to analyze regional and bilateral security cooperation of China comprehensively. This paper therefore explains it evaluates policy coordination through bilateral and multilateral channels against the background of overall security-political relationship.

Key Words: *Traditional security, Nontraditional security, Security cooperation, China, Globalization.*

Introduction

Military engagements among countries are as old as politics itself. Military cooperation is older than nation state itself, it is traced back to the time of Henry VIII, Persian Empire and Greek City States. The phenomena of globalization and terrorism in recent past, where on one hand have increased cooperative interdependence have, on the other hand, also made

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states to cooperate in terms of military and defence. It has become more important to curb and fight against transnational challenges of human security, natural disaster, and explosion of arms trade and beefed up military budgets. The landscape of balance of power is shifting, transforming and dramatically changing in every region.

Therefore military cooperation across the world is becoming an important aspect of the bilateral relations among states. The option of security cooperation is only possible once there is higher degree mutual trust, shared interest and will for cooperation at the political level between two or more governments besides required defence forces.

Academic approaches to study of bilateral relationship between two countries can be broadly categorized as realists and liberal institutionalists. The later advocate confidence building measures like military cooperation and military engagement. But the security cooperation of China with neighbouring countries, though interdependence is growing steady has remained modest. If one observes the interplay between management of non-traditional and traditional security in East Asia and Pacific, it seems difficult on account of overlapping adversities and cooperative policies among different actors. The traditional security involves the prevention from attacks by the state armed forces while non-traditional security means counter measures to a wider range of threats to the national and human security and counter measures.

Many analysts are of the view that the cooperation between China and its neighbours is because of non-traditional imperatives affecting state security at all these levels: domestic, regional and national, global and transnational. The interconnectivity has its cost and now states are to cooperate in every field of life, above all military engagements. The resulting cooperation helps to build a balance of relationship based upon political trust and therefore leads to enhanced international politico-security cooperation.

It is important to note that cooperation is instigated by the interlinking nature of non-traditional and traditional threats and problems. There is an important aspect to be considered: the difference between traditional and nontraditional cooperation between China and its neighbours.

The fall of Lehman Brothers in USA back in 2008 did not only mark a drastic shift in economic balance of power it also led to economic insecurity in many regions. The Asia Pacific has stepped almost smoothly and swiftly towards globalization becoming a successful part of multipolarity. Consequently it is experiencing not only cultural diversity but also a parallel development of information society. Meanwhile the urge of international community for world peace is at its peak but one feels far from living in a tranquil world, there are parallel signs of increase in hegemonic power politics and neo-interventionism. It is meant to be

suggested in previous lines that the traditional and non-traditional security challenges are interlaced and do interact not only at regional but also at the global level. It calls for regional cooperation. Competition in military is also intensifying and while non-traditional security challenges are to be taken into account, traditional/military security considerations have become more relevant than ever in a state's security agenda.

The thriving region of Asia and Pacific is now an eminent stage for the development of future world and its strategic interaction between major powers.¹ Not only the US is re-vitalising its security strategy as per Asia-Pacific the landscape of the region is also undergoing profound changes and China is the major player.²

China has used this time and space in international politics for its industrial and economic development and modernization. The standard of life in China has remarkably improved in the last decade, China now enjoys general social stability and cross-strait relations are sustaining a momentum of peaceful development. However, China still faces multiple and complicated security threats and challenges.³ China has employed its armed forces to principals of safeguarding national sovereignty, security and integrity thus supporting the state's peaceful development.⁴

The Security Environment in Asia Pacific

The non-traditional security challenges in Asia Pacific are not only of transnational nature but are non-militarised. These challenges affect security and wellbeing of states and people alike thus becoming most pivotal to the transforming security agenda in the region. As the perceptions and discourse on the agenda and normative debate of non-traditional security (NTS) is being redefined, China is becoming more and more serious to assure NTS and cooperate with its neighbours. While interdependencies between the traditional and non-traditional security realms remain obscure in Asia Pacific, the shift away from interpretation of security in pure terms of geo-politics. It is quiet apparent and profoundly visible. Moreover this shift is uniting states more than dividing them.

¹ The significant increase in Asia Pacific cooperation is one of the important factors which gave rise to the economic growth and development, hence opening new arenas of development. See Lawrence T. Woods, *Asia-Pacific Diplomacy: Nongovernmental Organizations and International Relations*, (UBC Press Canada, 2011), p-4-5.

² The Diversified Employment of China's Armed Forces, Information Office of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, (April 16, 2013). Accessed on January 13, 2014 at: http://www.china.org.cn/government/whitepaper/2013-04/16/content_28556792.htm

³ Graeme P. Herd (Ed.) *Great Powers and Strategic Stability in the 21st Century: Competing Visions of World Order*, (New York: Routledge, 2010), p-138

⁴ Ibid.

China has felt the pulse of changing requirements of regional security politics and has adopted a new concept in 1996. The new security concept has not only become central theme in Chinese foreign policy it is widely acknowledged at regional level also. This conceptual outlook of Chinese foreign policy based upon cooperation in both traditional and non-traditional security has become an important characteristic of rising power of China and influence in world politics that cannot be ignored.⁶ As per functionalists the Chinese government should engage with neighbours will support China's own development.

But the shift away from a military oriented understanding of security may also lead to more visible role of China in in the favour of international norms and values. This is further assumed that this engagement will also help to develop confidence and promote trust. This is not to be assumed however that there is some kind of must positive correlation between traditional and non-traditional security.

- Katherine Morton, "China and non-traditional security: Toward what end?" *East Asia Forum*, March 31, 2011. <http://www.easiaforum.org/2011/03/31/china-and-non-traditional-security-toward-what-end/>

China's firm commitment to pursue independent foreign policy, promote peace and secure its borders is helping it make a conducive security environment. China believes in advocating coordination with neighbours, thus making an imperative, comprehensive, and cooperative security.⁶ This necessitates the demand of building a systemic approach.⁷ Guarantee for national development and strategic support for national security is provided by China's armed forces. They are also making required contributions to the maintenance of not only world peace but also of regional stability.⁸

China and Regional Security Environment

In commitment to principles of non-interference and non-violence, equality and reciprocity in international relations, PLA has supported

⁶ Xia Liping, "How China thinks about national security", in *Alliances, Military Balances and Strategic Policy*, Chapter 8. Accessed on January 14, 2014 at: http://press.anu.edu.au//sdsc/rc/mobile_devices/ch09s02.html and Fu Peng, "The Diversified Employment of China's Armed Forces," April 16, 2013 http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2013-04/16/c_132312681.htm.

⁷ It is very interesting to see that China, having the largest population and vast land faces the threat as well. It is due to the neighbourhood of 13 countries out of which Russia and India are the significant challengers. Having troubles with Russia and war with India it has to strive for internal stability as well as external and border threats. See Robert Ross, "Chinese Security Policy: Structure", *Power and Politics*, p. 60,

⁸ Fu Peng, "China Defence White Papers," April 16, 2013. http://www.nti.org/media/pdfs/China_Defense_White_Paper_2013.pdf

cooperative environment in the region to promote trust among political and military fields, safeguarded regional security, and accelerated its own process of modernization.⁹ The 21st century is considered the Asian century. The rise of China along with other global uncertainties has been credited as major reason for the power shift towards Asia. Though the US and Europe are still influential, Asia's unrestrained growth has made China a candidate for world leadership.

The changing regional security environment will have an impact on how China can lead the region. The challenges to the region are multifaceted and cannot be easily resolved by economic and security powers alone. The Managing Director of IMF Dominique Strauss, recognized Asia's emergence as a global economic powerhouse. He said that this region is still at risk from two elements: Europe and expected slowdown on US economy. But while there are signs of economic stability in the region, it is yet too early to tell whether the crisis has been sorted out or not.

What is more likely is that the stratification of different levels of sophistication or lack thereof, in financial market in the Asia Pacific have prevented problems of domino effect that may have stemmed from the 2009 crisis.¹⁰ The role of China in this regard cannot be overlooked in its neighbouring region because it has gone ahead of Japan as the second biggest economy in the world.¹¹ The economic power of China is bound to affect region ultimately both in traditional and non-traditional calculations of power politics. Owing development of its education sector, the agrarian sector productivity and its locally driven economic reforms along with its openness for economic policy debates, China is de facto hegemon in the region already.

Nevertheless, traditional security concerns are continuous challenge for China. For instance the South China Sea is still a flashpoint for disputes in the region due to contesting claims of various states. The situation has deteriorated due to the tensions between the US and China. On 17th ASEAN Regional Forum in Hanoi, 3 July 2010 the US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, said that it "has a national interest in freedom of

⁹ In addition to that a bulk of the Chinese trainings are of the visits and trainings abroad. It is now a days well known feature for the Chinese PLA. see "Chinese Foreign Relations: Power and Policy since the Cold War," By Robert G. Sutter, (USA: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers), p.128.

¹⁰ Ralf Emmers and John Ravenhill, "The Asian and Global Financial Crises: Consequences for East Asian Regionalism," *RSIS Working Paper No. 208* (Singapore: RSIS 2010). [Online] Retrieved Dec. 14, 2013) <http://fsi.gov.ph/asia-pacific-regional-security-environment-and-security-architecture-choices-and-prospects/>

¹¹ "China and India: Contest of the Century," *Economist*, (Online), August 19, 2010 [Online] <http://www.economist.com/node/16846256> and also Robert Fogel. "\$123,000,000,000: China's estimated economy by the year 2040," *Foreign Policy*, January-February 2010 [Online] <http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/01/04/1230000000000000?page=0,0>

navigation, open access to Asia's maritime commons, and respect for international law in the South China Sea."¹² The US wants to internationalize the issue while China is averse to the idea. The Foreign

Minister of China Yang Jiechi insisted that the internationalization of the South China Sea disputes will "only make matters worse and resolution more difficult."¹³ Intriguingly the Asia Pacific region has become home/region of interest to many nuclear powers. Russia, US, China, Pakistan, India, and North Korea are having nuclear capabilities. At large level of analysis Asia is the region where three states have gone against nuclear taboos of testing and tested their weapons in recent history (India, Pakistan, and North Korea). Scrutinizing non-proliferation culture in Asia Pacific the culture of sensitivity towards non-proliferation is alarming, six among nine states have not ratified the Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty i.e.: China, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, US, and North Korea. The disputes in the region call for improved level of mutual cooperation and self-assumed compliance with international standards on nuclear issues and it should be maintained or improved in future.

Already the joint ventures for anti-terrorism military exercises within the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) have become more organized. China has been at the forefront of this activity, taking part in nine bilateral and multilateral military exercises.¹⁴ China has been part of many exercises with the name of "Peace Mission" since 2005. For example;

- "Peace Mission-2005" China-Russia joint military exercise.
- "Peace Mission-2007" joint anti-terrorism military exercise by SCO members.
- "Peace Mission-2009" China-Russia joint anti-terrorism military exercise.
- "Peace Mission-2010" joint anti-terrorism military exercise by SCO members.
- "Peace Mission-2012" joint anti-terrorism military exercise by SCO members.¹⁵

Not only is this but SCO enhancing its capabilities through more joint deals.¹⁶ China also has responded to the demands of security and has introduced vast changes in infrastructure especially in maritime security.

¹² Hillary Rodham Clinton, "Remarks at Press Availability" (delivered during a press conference after the ASEAN Regional Forum Annual Meeting, National Convention Center, Hanoi, Vietnam, July 23, 2010. [Online] <http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2010/07/145095.htm>

¹³ Yang Jiechi as quoted by Wu Liming and Chen Yong, "U.S. involvement will only complicate South China Sea issue," Xinhuanet, July 27, 2010. [Online] http://www.news.xinhuanet.com/english2010/indepth/2010-07/27/c_13417848.htm

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Ibid

¹⁶ Ibid.

Joint maritime exercises and training are being expanded. In recent years, the Chinese navy has taken part in exercises hosted by Pakistan on the Arabian Sea. The PLA and Russian navies held,

- Maritime Cooperation-2012" military drills.
- Chinese and Thai Marine Corps held the "Blue Strike-2010" and "Blue Strike-2012" joint training exercises.

Among other exercises, the China also conducted multilateral maritime exercises and training sessions in areas as communication, maritime replacement, helicopter landing, surface firing, underwater and air targets, joint escort, boarding and inspection and diving with its counterparts of India, France, the UK, Australia, Thailand, the US, Russia, Japan, New Zealand and Vietnam.¹⁷ Chinese are also extending help in non-traditional staff training to their immediate as well as extended neighbours. The medical teams of PLA have held humanitarian based joint operations for medical assistance titled "Peace Angel" in a disaster-relief exercise of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) in Indonesia from 2009 to 2011. The health teams of PLA have also conducted and hosted joint exercises disaster relief titled as "Cooperation Spirit-2012" in October 2012.¹⁸

Border Cooperation Agreements

Borders of nation states have always marked territorial sense of security and integrity. This is the boundary wall which has to be secured and be kept safe. Till date China has concluded many cooperative border agreements.¹⁹ China has not only signed such agreements with seven neighbouring countries but has also established working border mechanisms with 12 other countries regarding defence along border. China being old civilization has inherent both wisdom and diplomatic capability to manage border disputes in a manner so that it won't affect the overall interests of the mutual bilateral relations. In the border agreement with India, it is agreed that peace and tranquility on border is foundational stone for growth of the relationship. India is not only seeking access to the Chinese markets but also wants to attract Chinese investment. The countries have also signed nine agreements including a deal to strengthen co-operation on trans-border rivers and transport.²⁰ China is already one of India's top trading partners. Both countries have

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Klaus Kunzmann, Willy A Schmid, Martina Koll-Schretzenmayr, (Eds.), "China and Europe: The Implications of the Rise of China for European Space" (New York: Routledge, 2010), p-178.

²⁰ "India and China in border defence agreement", *BBC News* (India) October 23, 2103. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-india-24633991>

competing strategic towards different global issues.²¹ Sino-Indian differences are considerably prominent in the areas of nuclear non-proliferation, security in Asia and in space, and cyberspace. The two regional powers agree on matters of politics of international economic system, energy security, and the environmental security. Both are facing rising energy demands at domestic front. But the border issues between two countries loom large. Sixteen rounds of talks have resulted in nothing concrete and border issues e.g. Aksai Chin remain unresolved.

Engaging two Koreas

China follows dual policy: That of friendship with North Korea and of coordination with South Korea. It has a balanced approach on the issues of denuclearization and regional stability.²² The Chinese Communist Party of China has affirmed Beijing's "consistent" policy of friendly relations to promote strategic security communication along cooperative lines between the two parties so as to expand cooperation further in various fields on global and regional issues.

China has been neutral about its policy towards both Koreas. South Korean anxieties for instance about Beijing's future North Korea policy were categorically discussed at fifth China-ROK High-Level Strategic Dialogue held on Nov. 26 2012. Following the dialogue, strategic goals of denuclearization and peninsula stability, as well as the need for frank dialogue and close cooperation were emphasized.

Cooperation with SCO Countries

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization is a regional organization having neither global nor military ambitions. Though it has whole heartedly promoted and facilitated joint military exercises among its members and sponsored collaborations in the fields of defence, security and cooperation against terrorism. The organization believes in politics of non-confrontation.

More than any member of SCO, China has a special, unique sense of responsibility towards the motto of organization. More than the psychological reasons for the significance China attaches to SCO (its name after a Chinese city or its capital being in Beijing or above all China being its initiator.), the organization has been a stage to forward Chinese economic and political interests specially in Central Asia and beyond. Some call it the "NATO" of China in Asia Pacific region.²³

²¹ Ashley J. Tellis, "Crux of Asia: China, India, and the Emerging Global Order" (India: 2013), <http://carnegieendowment.org/2013/01/10/crux-of-asia-china-india-and-emerging-global-order/f0gw#>

²² Scott Snyder, "China-Korea Relations: Under New Leaderships," Council on Foreign Relations/Pacific Forum CSIS (2013): http://csis.org/files/publication/1203qchina_korea.pdf.

²³ Tyler Roney, "The Shanghai Cooperation Organization: China's NATO?", *Diplomate*

China so far has been the openly country with power to shape domestic policies of the whole of Central Asian states. Though it does upset prospects of many players in the region specially USA but then no state in the CARs is exactly democratic or free. According to Freedom House survey, among six SCO nations Kyrgyzstan is the only state that is "Partly Free." While the rest of the world looks with concern on the non-democratic situation in CARs China promotes development above all keeping itself indifferent from humanitarian intervention. But the belief among western analysts is strong that SCO is designed as a counterbalance to NATO.²⁴

Sino-Russia Bilateral Relationship

The bilateral relations of China and Russia have improved immensely after the collapse of Soviet Union. They are currently working together in the areas of diplomacy, defence, security, and above all energy. Until recently the Russo-Chinese security cooperation has seemed of only mutual statements and actions and not of intense (socio-economic) cross-border ties. But this is to note that in their mutual relationship the dependence of China is decreasing on Russia both as per energy resources and arms supply.

Not only this, China is going for more and more unilateral exercises in the Asia Pacific region.

The edge of good relationship between the two was compromised back in 2010 when Russia attacked Georgia and China strongly rejected it. Moreover China's involvement in Central Asia is considered by Russia as interference in region of Russia's interest.

China has also beefed up its budget in recent years which is additional point of concern for the Russian strategists. Owing to these development some of the Russian policymakers had reservations to extend their blessing to Moscow's involvement in the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN). They had fears that this diplomatic step might posit Russia on a course of collision with China.

The main point of collusion actually is the way of managing relations. Both states have different ways of conducting their international relations with neighbours. While China stresses economic exchange and cooperation, Russia asserts its superior international status. For instance in the BRICS group of countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa), or /and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). During and in pre cold war era Russia had been hostile, but the situation hanged and both became equal in their dealings.²⁵

(online), September 11, 2013. <http://thediplomat.com/2013/09/the-shanghai-cooperation-organization-chinas-nato-2/>

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Sujian Guo and Jean-Marc F. (Ed.), "Blanchard Harmonious World and China's New Foreign Policy", (USA: Lexington Books, 2008), p-92.

The Sino-Russian Political Relationship

The Sino-Russian Political Relationship; if we confine our observation to the political top-level relations and recognize how the countries eventually resolved their political disputes, since 1990s, was a success. They settled their border issues, minimized the risk of armed conflict and eventually formed a strategic partnership relationship in 1996. At that time, the rapprochement was based on a number of mutually shared solid strategic interests.

- *Firstly*, sufficient trust had emerged to enable Moscow and Beijing to tackle the complicated border and security issues.
- *Secondly*, the countries acknowledged their different modernization paths and understood that closer economic cooperation would benefit them both.
- *Thirdly*, the geopolitical and security constellations were changing for both countries.
- *Fourthly*, in the initial post-Cold War years Beijing and Moscow were very concerned about the hegemonic position and influence of the US and strongly opposed the unipolar world order of the Western countries.

Chinese Role in Afghanistan

After a prolong silence, China hinted in June 2012, that together with Russia, it would play a broader role for the stabilization of the Afghanistan. China has emphasized on strengthening of ways and means of, improved coordination and mutual cooperation in dealing with major international and regional issues surrounding Afghanistan. China has introduced new cooperation models and ways to identify new sectors as a priority for economic cooperation.

China eagerly looks forward to the reconstruction of Afghanistan, following ouster of the NATO and US forces, as already it has invested a lot in Afghanistan. Afghan government also urges to expand and strengthen relations with China. Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi said in a statement in this regard that member states of SCO should boost security cooperation towards Afghanistan to safeguard regional stability. It includes stepping up the fight against terrorism, autonomy and extremism, optimizing the model for cooperation in ensuring security. Yang also called for further deepening of cooperation amid the economic downturn in the areas of trade and investment, in sectors such as finance, transport, energy, telecommunications and agriculture.

Sino-Pakistan Cooperation

Pakistan and China are ever green friends in cooperation on all major issues. The diplomatic relations between the two were established

in 1951 and ever since they have progressed immensely from having merely a good neighbourly relationship to an exemplary strategic partnership which is based on common interests, mutual trust and unequivocal support on all core concerns.²⁶ Contrary to Indian perceptions, this is mainly because of their mutually shared complementarities, as opposed to being based on animosity towards India or any other country. This is clear from the fact that Pakistan did not attack India to lift its occupation over Kashmir during Sino-India war-1962.

On its part, the Chinese military has, traditionally, been defensive in nature, though it remains combat ready at all times. Despite the huge military power of the PLA, there are no heavily guarded garrisons along the Sino-Pak frontiers.²⁷

In stark contrast to Pakistan's allies like USA, China is not just a source of conventional and non-conventional arms, but has been a provider of critical technologies that, in turn, have enabled Pakistan to develop an indigenous nuclear and missile programme. China has been a reliable supplier of conventional military equipment to Pakistan, providing, for instance, F-7 fighters and the T-85 main battle tank (the new version of which is the ZTZ96).²⁸ From 1972 to 1974, China not only provided Pakistan with \$300 million worth of military equipment but also helped in the establishment of defense factories. Even till date the time tested Sino-US military cooperation is continued as per "high-level military exchanges, structured defense and security talks, joint exercises, and training of personnel in each other's institutions, joint defence production, and defense trade."²⁹

The Defence White Paper

The Defence White Paper, 2013 describes Asia-Pacific region as pre dominant factor in Chinese military thinking. The defence white paper of China is issued to address international demands for transparency. China was facing these demands for some years now in which defence modernization programme of china could have been questioned by international community. China has shown its commitment to further its modernization programme and also to stay engaged with the international community; China has also begun using the Defence White Papers to

²⁶ "China-Pakistan Relations a Profile of Friendship," *IPRI Factfile*, Islamabad (2013). <http://www.ipripak.org/factfiles/ff60.shtml> (Accessed on July 10, 2013).

²⁷ Pakistan Times, "Pakistan, China resolve to consolidate strategic Ties; Joint Statement Issued," May 23, 2013. <http://www.pakistantimes.net/pt/detail.php?newsId=17381>

²⁸ Through a Military Deal in May 1967, China agreed to deliver military arms worth \$120 million to Pakistan, which included 100x T-59 tanks, 80x MiG-19 and 10x III-28s aircrafts, the diplomat, May 17,2017.

²⁹ Masood Khan, Ambassador of Pakistan to China, Pakistan-China friendship: a lush tree, Pakistan-China Institute. July 16, 2012. Accessed on Jan 14, 2014 at; <http://www.nihao-salam.com/article-detail.php?id=MzA3>.

publicize its own national objectives and version of world view. This paper also includes leadership's thinking on a wide range of issues like plans on role of the armed forces; probabilistic areas of conflict; significant areas of interest; and above all the extent to which China would cooperate in terms of military with foreign nations.

This paper singles out China as being significant country for influencing the process of economic development in the world and strategic interaction between major powers especially in its own region. As Beijing has showed its concern about US interference in Asia-Pacific security strategy, Japan has too. It has affirmed that the threat from the "three forces" of terrorism, separatism and extremism is increasing. The linguistic style of the White Paper 2013 is similar to the language used in the Defence White Paper of 2010. China has also reaffirmed its hard core traditional commitment to safeguard and protect its own territorial borders, coastal and territorial air security, and "protecting national maritime rights and interests" and "national security interests in outer space and cyber space".

The new Chinese leadership has realized significance of unleashing new sources of growth. This is owing to the fact that China has expanded its economy at a breakneck pace for over three decades. But even then it feels to sputtering out and burdened by industrial overcapacity. The piles of debt unknown to a common man are threatening to erode competitiveness. Deng Xiaoping while starting his reforms actually created a strong working group to face these challenges. China's gross national income per capita is now around \$5,600 in U.S. dollars which means that China has made it into the ranks of upper-middle-income countries, which brings new challenges.

China's new Leadership: Security Cooperation with Neighbours

President Xi Jinping, visualizing good neighbourly relations has sought consolidation of friendly relations and security cooperation with neighbours. China wants to achieve its own goals of prosperous and modern country by 2049, at the 100th anniversary of the establishment of PRC. While addressing the party's central committee's political bureau on Oct 24, 2013, President Xi said that dealings with neighbouring countries "should have a three-dimensional, multi-element perspective, beyond time and space."

He also said that one must understand the "trend of the time, devise strategy and plan carefully." He emphasized significance of the economic and trade links with neighbours and even hinted on unprecedented exchanges. He envisioned to develop a Silk Road economic belt and also to hasten inter-connectivity for the 21st century. China would facilitate establishment of free trade zones he said, and promote a new

pattern of regional economic integration.

He also urged that the region must promote mutual cooperation. At the level of financial economic market in the region China, he urged to promote and facilitate financial cooperation by establishing an Asian investment bank. This definitely would call for a better people-to-people exchange/relationship among China and its neighbours. And this is omnipotent for the long term development of relationships. The people-to-people exchange eventually would improve tourism, technology, and education and trans-national and sub-national cooperation.

Conclusion

This paper has proved that China has maintained and established cordial relations almost with all of its neighbours based on common interests.³⁰ Be it Pakistan, India China, SCO, ASEAN, Russia or USA in the region, China has not only managed to solve old border issues, resolved edges of antagonism but has also developed areas of cooperation with its concerned states specially in the region. China has continued to maintain a peaceful and defensive foreign policy. China has been a staunch believer of anti-terrorism strategies and warfare.

The unique element with Chinese way of managing diplomatic security cooperation is its belief in non-interference in domestic matters of the host/recipient state. The leadership of China categorically strives to create a more equal and just international system. At the same time, Beijing has become more active in promoting the idea of “win-win solutions” for countries that are willing to cooperate with China. With these new principles, Beijing aims at reassuring its neighbours and the world that the rise of China should not be seen as a threat, but rather as an opportunity. The regional and international players have their stakes, but China with its tangible actions has proved and will continue to prove itself as a steadfast force to reckon with. It will prove to be a staunch safeguard of peace and promoter of development in the region and the world alike. As the President Jiang of China has said, “We will not attack unless we are attacked; but we will surely counterattack if attacked.”³¹

³⁰ Dr Muhammad Khan, “Gwadar Port: An Economic Hub or a Military Outpost,” *Journal of Contemporary Studies*, vol. II, No. 1 (2013): 46-67.

³¹ Ibid.

