

A Pitch is New-Fangled: Afghanistan & Regional Players Power-Ploy (A Precipitous Assessment)

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ABSTRACT

The aim of the paper to present current Afghanistan's economic instability and security issues. The country is facing a severe economic and political crisis after the withdrawal of U.S. forces. International accountability is shifting to the recently established Taliban regime as they pledge to start rebuilding the country after 20 years of destruction by foreign troops. The article elaborates on how regional players are engaged with Afghanistan. Afghanistan is facing many challenges and difficulties in the reconstruction process. The regional players arranged the 'Troika Plus' with representatives of Moscow, Beijing and the New York to discuss the Afghan crisis with the aim to deal Taliban government at various levels. Both sides discussed ways to prevent the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan and supported all efforts for peace, stability and building the country. The research is qualitative in nature along with descriptive, analytical and exploratory methods with focusing secondary resources.

Keywords: Afghanistan, Economic integration, Stability in Afghanistan.

INTRODUCTION

The country is facing a severe economic and political crisis after the withdrawal of United States troops from Afghanistan. The international response is turning to the recently established Taliban regime as they begin rebuilding and rebuilding the country after 20 years of devastating destruction by foreign forces. In the reconstruction process, the government faces many challenges and difficulties, but as expected, China seems to be helping Afghanistan reconstruct and rebuild as a partner country. On the other side, Pakistan hosted 'Troika plus'. With the representatives of China, Russia, and the U.S. to argue the Afghan crisis. Pakistan, China, and Russia have indicated that they are willing to engage with the Taliban regime after a smooth power transition and will cooperate on different levels. The Troika conference discussed the ways to prevent the humanitarian crisis in

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Afghanistan. China fully extended its support for Pakistan in hosting this conference of China-US-Russia and supports all-inclusive efforts to develop peace, stability, and construction of the country. China is also ready to engage in friendly relations with Afghanistan as the Taliban regime has assured that Afghanistan will not allow any non-state terror organization to use its territory against any other country, including China and Pakistan. Deputy Director of the Institute of South Asian Studies at the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR), Dr. Wang Shida, said the Taliban regime has promised not to let any organization to the advantage of Kabul land to damage the interest of China's security and peace. So this is a positive beginning and promise for Pakistan and other states. He further said the Taliban regime has limited resources and is facing a severe economic crisis; no country can exploit its natural resources in this situation (ISS, 2021). It is a significant time for the major powers to hold talks with the Taliban regime to sustain peace and security in the region. The Taliban regime has limited experience in dealing with economic governance without any external assistance, and it is difficult to resolve the ongoing crisis unilaterally. It is, therefore, the responsibility of every stakeholder in the region, especially in the interest of both China and Pakistan, to help the Afghan people not to face any significant humanitarian disaster.

China's pragmatic approach is to engage in post-war rebuilding and afford the economic investment to assist the people of Afghanistan in developing the country. This is also an expression of hope that China will involve deeply in Afghan development and can play a leading role in the coming future in the region. Both Pakistan and China urged the global community to promptly provide humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan because the people are facing a shortage of food and medical equipment in the shadow of the winter season. Both countries are longtime partners and have sent humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan along with other states. China has declared that it will continue providing humanitarian aid to Afghanistan and has established an air corridor for agricultural trade with Afghanistan (Global Times, 2021). It is said that Pakistan has brokered all peace meetings between China and the Taliban as Pakistan believes that China plays a more significant role in the peace of the South Asian region, especially in the Afghan crisis. China's central role and engagement are vital because it has security interests and is the largest economy and neighboring country. It has stakes in the region, so China cannot stay behind in this crisis. Pakistan and China are interested in extending its billion-dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor to Afghanistan (Hafeezullah, 2020) Both countries have offered the past Kabul regime several offers to join CPEC, but the US-installed Afghan government did not join Belt and Road Initiative BRI because of U.S. influence. Regime change in Afghanistan has provided both Pakistan and China an opportunity for economic integration in the region and further extended the China-

A Pitch is New-Fangled: Afghanistan & Regional Players Power-Ploy (A Precipitous Assessment) Pakistan Economic Corridor to Afghanistan under the shadow of the BRI. After the U.S. withdrawal, President Joe Biden categorically stated that the U.S. mission was not to nation-building and tightened further sanctions on Afghanistan (Whitehouse Report, 2021). In this situation, it is natural for Afghanistan to look for other possible options to rebuild and reconstruct the devastated country. China was the best option for the newly established Afghan Taliban regime so they looked for Chinese and Pakistani assistance. Both countries stand to develop friendly neighboring relations and can play a constructive role in Afghan peace and development. The policy engagement of China and Pakistan is on enhancing infrastructure and economic integration and cooperation with each other and Afghanistan. Both countries have leveraged CPEC in Pakistan to connect with Afghanistan and engage economically, and they share a long history of collaboration and finding common ground in Afghanistan.

WHY AFGHANISTAN?

Beijing has two aspects of interest in Afghanistan: firstly, China's BRI projects security in Pakistan and the Central Asian region, and secondly, security in its western borders. Beijing grasps three problems - separatism, terrorism and religious extremism considered a threat to national security. For this purpose, Beijing has asked the Taliban to separate from all extremist gangs, especially the Islamic State and the East Turkistan Islamic Movement. Beijing desires the Afghan government in Xinjiang to combat these groups to spread radicalization and stop cross-border terrorism. Moreover, to protect its economic interests, China desires a conducive regional security model. China has already achieved significant success in Pakistan and Central Asia through the CPEC and China-Central Asia-West Asia since 2013. Investments nearby Afghanistan have greatly expanded Beijing's weakness in terms of conflicts. Beijing also fears that these groups will attack on their projects and personnel. A peaceful Afghanistan will ease security problems, improve stability and help Beijing to expand its economic objectives. The most important issue is the recent change in strategic situations in South Asia, especially in Afghanistan. Several Scholars from the Western and Indian sides have connected the Taliban's occupancy with US-China, India-China, and -Pakistan-India relations. According to them, the Taliban occupancy is a victory for Pakistan and China but a tactical collapse for India and the West (Liu. Z, 2021). In Afghanistan, the U.S. efforts to surrender the interests of Pakistan in exchange for India's strategic cooperation. If India is taking part in Afghanistan, it must play a constructive and positive role. But some Indian forces and agencies tried to disrupt and weaken stability in Afghanistan and its neighboring zones from the previous 20 years to promote the Afghan peace process and to improve connectivity and regional expansion, The Sino-Pak-Afghanistan Trilateral Mechanism was formed. Under the shadow of The BRI, this trilateral collaboration broadens the economic connectivity among China and Pakistan to

Afghanistan. This Economic connectivity varies on stability and peace in the region, particularly in the case of Afghanistan. The volatile and distrust-based interactions among Afghanistan and Pakistan obscure the Economic Corridor connectivity. The participation of China in the peace and stability of Afghanistan rotates around expanding the Belt and Road Initiative project (Ali. A, 2021). China and Pakistan have a common interest for regional stability, peace, and regional economic connectivity. Establishing peace within its ambit to increase the BRI is the major interest of China. This collaboration between China, Pakistan, and Afghanistan can be understood through peace, counterterrorism, stability, improvement, and restoration. Pakistan has debated Afghanistan government to join the CPEC under the umbrella of the BRI infrastructure project. "Regional connectivity is an important element of our discussion with Afghan leadership and our way forward for our economic interaction with Afghanistan. This important project - China Pakistan Economic Corridor provides good opportunities, good potential for providing infrastructure and energy connectivity between Afghanistan and Pakistan, also connecting South Asia to the Central Asian region. Representatives from China, Russia and Pakistan have organized discussions with the Taliban-led Afghan government to debate the two major aspects of economic development and security. China, Russia and Pakistan has supposed to remain to discuss and come together as a group with the Afghan government (Charlotte. G, 2021). China and Pakistan cooperate with Afghanistan to deal with the unstable economic situation and the pandemic. The success story of CPEC will successfully promote and strengthen Pakistan's national and international standing. The CPEC's success is that Pakistan requires to create its own industrial benefits through upgrades the development progress that can provide a reliable atmosphere for the CPEC construction. The key to the success of CPEC is that Pakistan needs to form its industrial advantages through reform and development that can provide a safer environment for the construction of CPEC. However, Afghanistan is located between Central Asia and the CPEC. Afghanistan provides the shortest and less expensive route for trade and transportation, but its internal security dynamics have been the biggest obstacle to closer trade relations in the region. All stakeholders need to develop a vision that will help stabilize the Afghanistan situation and effectively address the country's security challenges. Shortly, if security is strengthened, the extension of China's existence in Afghanistan through trade plans will encourage Beijing to disclose its economic interests further.

China has also shown its interest in mining sector of Afghanistan since the 2000s, but past steps have been tense with troubles. The Mess Ionic copper mine, leased for 30 years to China Metallurgical Group in 2007(CNBC Report), is a well-recognized case. Due to security concerns and concerns over preserving ancient Buddhist ruins in the area the project has stopped. However, this project's progress is still tentative. Unused resources in Afghanistan are appealing China, which

A Pitch is New-Fangled: Afghanistan & Regional Players Power-Ploy (A Precipitous Assessment) is facing increasing internal demand for vital supplies and energy. Although China believes mining projects in Afghanistan will prove to be long-lasting, which will require pieces such as security guarantees and proper infrastructure to be laid first.

ASSISTANCE AVIITY TO AFGHANISTAN

Afghanistan's economy is in trouble. The Taliban-forced occupation reduced almost all humanitarian assistance, a disastrous improvement for the nation reliant on foreign financial assistance. Widespread corruption, drought, chronic insufficient use of the state's human investment, and inhabitants without vaccination fighting Covid-19 have compounded this enduring crisis of international assistance. The new financial trials that followed the Taliban's occupation have added to these longstanding difficulties. China is the first country to pledge 200 million yuan (\$31m, £22m) of aid to Afghanistan with coronavirus vaccines and food supplies (Daily China). The assistance comes because China stated it was ready to continue interacting with the Afghan regime and further discussed that establishing the recent government was a "necessary step to restore order" in Kabul. Foreign Minister of China Wang Yi stated the assistance methods for Kabul at a meeting with representatives of neighboring countries Tajikistan, Pakistan, Iran, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan. He also asked neighboring states to cooperate, adding that China would provide 3 million vaccine doses to help Afghanistan, (BBC Report) Faced with humanitarian destruction and economic downturn, the Afghan government accepted Chinese immediate medical and food supplies. Furthermore, Beijing also funded a project of construction on the Ministry of Justice premises, and reports suggest that Chinese corporations have visited Afghanistan the exploration of mining chances. China also diplomatically supported Afghanistan and attempted to increase financial aid and foreign assistance for Afghanistan's reconstruction,, particularly by asking international states to freeze Afghan foreign assets and end restrictions. Similarly, China and other regional states are pushing Western states to engage the Taliban and assist the country. The foreign ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said, "Afghanistan is an independent sovereign state. The U.S. should respect Afghanistan's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity. The drone strike killing 10 in Kabul is just the tip of the iceberg of all those tragedies and crimes the U.S. made," (Turkiye report) China's best chance right now is that the "international community" will jointly help Kabul's rehabilitation. Such as Russian and Chinese representatives have asked Western officials to issue frozen assets held in their banks and offer considerable progress and financial assistance to Afghanistan. China has to spend less if other states provide more assistance to Afghanistan. On the contrary, Beijing will depend mainly on the possibility of Beijing diplomatic and economic relations with Pakistan, Russia, and the Afghanistan government to improve its security targets of refusing help to the Taliban to anti-Beijing supporters. Beijing's utmost

significant interests in Afghanistan soon are principally security. More than all, Beijing is worried about how negative developments in Afghanistan could fuel insecurity in the Central Asian region, China's neighbors, Pakistan, and, particularly Xinjiang western province of China. These security objectives will regulate the future economic ties of Beijing with the Afghan government for the next few years instead of any excessive and somewhat reasonable financial benefits from trade and investment.

EASTERN VICINITY ROLE (BIRD'S EYE VIEW)

A strong strategic relationship between China and Pakistan is one of the main reasons for China's coordinating Afghan policies with Pakistan. Islamabad has a valuable understanding of Afghanistan concerns, and Beijing sees it as a great benefit. When Beijing started focusing on Afghanistan, Islamabad got ahead to share its experience, leading to their confidence. The starkly contrasts Pakistan's strained interactions with the U.S. regarding Afghanistan. The collaboration among both states, the United States and Pakistan has been distrusted and skeptical of both countries' consistency and objectives. On the contrary, better tactical coordination among Pakistan and China has assisted their partnership in Afghanistan. China has taken equal revenge for Islamabad's attempts with economic and diplomatic assistance. Beijing has protected Pakistan from pressure from the United States and other global agencies because of its patience with terrorist organizations. China appreciated Pakistan's role in the fight against terrorism due to increasing pressure from the Trump administration on Pakistan to shelter terrorists. Chinese State Councilor Yang Jiechi came to save Pakistan when communicating with then-U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson in August 2017. Protecting Islamabad's position in Afghanistan, he stated, "We should attach importance to Pakistan's important role in Afghanistan and respect Pakistan's sovereignty and legitimate security concerns." (Economic Times, 2017) Islamabad considers India's presence in Afghanistan unfavorable to Pakistan's interests. Even though Beijing has not openly spoken out on the matter, it is acceptable to think that it shares Pakistan's anxieties and attitudes. The regional recognition of the Afghan in the context of the Doha Peace Accords has left India quandary, forcing it to change its policy towards the Taliban. Although Pakistan hopes to take advantage of Beijing's existence in Afghanistan to respond to India's hold, Beijing realizes the benefits of using Pakistan to counter India. However, Pakistan is also seeking its interest in Afghanistan. Pakistan can play a constructive role with China in restoring Afghanistan.

WHATs THE IRAN PLOY?

Its goals epicenter on the same pious, tribal, and artistic acquaintances that have traditionally assured Iran to Afghanistan and the CARs. These homelands all be fluent in abundant varieties of

A Pitch is New-Fangled: Afghanistan & Regional Players Power-Ploy (A Precipitous Assessment) the Persian semantic. Try to sojourn an intemperate Sunni management from recapturing clout in Afghanistan (Taliban or any other). American and akin militaries sally as soon as realistic. Partake vigorously in Afghanistan's refurbishment to upsurge her stimulus there. Iran has aided much from the twitch of its fissionable programmed, together with the dread of its Islamic immoderation and fissionable sabotage midst Iran's regional thespians like Israel, the EU, and the USA as well as county rivals in CARs and Turkey. Iran is consequently probable to endeavor to upsurge its mastery in Afghanistan and the CARs in the adjacent future. In mandate to conserve county harmony, Iran anticipates to conserve a affectionate rapport with its neighbors. In directive for Muslim states to strive in today's monetary competitiveness deprived of necessitating freestanding succor, it longs for the formation of a efficient pecuniary Islamic block in the form of the ECO. The anti-Taliban union has the dogged upkeep of Russia, Iran, and India in order for them to achieve their objectives. The United States and its merger have currently opted to extract from Afghanistan politely as a consequence of Iran's alteration to Islam as they don't neediness to flop in Afghanistan as they did in Vietnam. Iran's strong exchanging situation in the CARs will piece a heroine in the county extension of the Great Game. It is guiding Muslim nations' consideration near evolving sturdy, efficient associations like to those in the west. Notwithstanding the circumstance that Iran requirements a trustworthy neighbor, it does not aspiration to impact Afghanistan's forthcoming in the occurrence of the West.

CARs POWER-PLOY

Afghanistan and the CARs are viewed as the upcoming world political hotspots. The geostrategic locus of Afghanistan is gotten by county and global festivities as a strip and cross-road to see vigor loads and luxury marketable crusade. Afghanistan expanded additional worth for the CARs after 9/11 as a consequence of the effect the US attack had on the fullness of Central Asia. The following are the goals of the CAR in Afghanistan: exterminating the derivation roots of Islamic zealotry; defensive the hydrocarbon reserves and CARs, and principally China abode mammoth premeditated worth on the inaugural up of Afghan land as a transportation itinerary to transnational bazaars concluded the Indian Ocean, Mediterranean, and China itself by disuniting stalemates with the Moscow bastion. Turk and Uzbek in exact dearth to appreciate a constant Afghanistan subsequently they have been most unfavorably la-di-da by the manifestation of U.S. and league forces there. A soothing Afghanistan varieties it conceivable for Turk and Uzbek to pass oil and gas pipes to the ports of the west part of Indian Ocean. By launching immovability and armistice in Afghanistan, Tajik optimisms to shelter itself in contradiction of bulky cross-border relocation and the nippy enlargement of pious zeal. A scarce CARs nations segment precincts with Afghanistan. Numerous of the statuses itineraries will be rummage-sale to quantity the NATO with logistical sustenance.

Abundant societies fractious precincts illicitly and partake in the evolution of terrorism in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

CONCLUSION

China's role and engagement in Afghanistan is vital because it has security and economic interests; as a neighboring country with Afghanistan, it is at stake in its region, so China cannot lag in this crisis. Pakistan and China are interested in extending the billion-dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor to Afghanistan. The two countries have offered the past Kabul government several offers to join the CPEC, but the U.S.-dominated Afghan government did not join the BRI because of U.S. influence. The change of government in Afghanistan has given Pakistan and China opportunities for economic integration in the region and extended the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor under the belt and road initiative to Afghanistan. China was the best option for the newly established Afghan Taliban government in this situation, so they sought Chinese and Pakistani help. The two countries promote friendly, neighborly relations and can play a constructive role in Afghan peace and development. The Taliban government described China as the most crucial country in the region and hoped that China's investment and aid would provide an opportunity to rebuild the war-torn country. The policy of China and Pakistan aims to enhance infrastructure and economic integration and cooperation with each other and Afghanistan. The two countries have taken advantage of CPEC in Pakistan to connect with Afghanistan and engage economically and find common goals in Afghanistan.

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