

## **Geographical Location of Pakistan: Strategic and Economic Opportunities for China**

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### **Abstract**

The research paper tried to attempt the geographical location of Pakistan: strategic and economic opportunities for China. Pakistan is geographically located in the North West of South Asia. It has a shared border with four neighboring countries, China is one of them. The geographical location of Pakistan has attracted China to maintain friendly relations with Pakistan. In the paper, secondary sources are used with a qualitative method. The relevant material has collected from books, newspapers, journal articles, published and unpublished dissertations. Pakistan is a neighboring state of China which is located on the beach of the Arabian Sea. It provides the shortest access for China to African states, the Middle East & to the international market through Gwadar port and Karakorum Highway (KKH). KKH is a trade corridor between Pakistan, Afghanistan, Central Asia (CA) and China. Gwadar port is a naval base which reduces the US-Indian hegemony in the Indian Ocean. Gilgit Baltistan (GB) is located in-between China, Afghanistan and India. It cuts Indian access to the CA and Afghanistan. The geographical location of Pakistan is an opportunity to reduce the large distance of China's shipping route that passes through the Strait of Malacca and the then South China Sea. Due to its geostrategic position, Pakistan can help China's "go west policy", "string of the pearl strategy", and control the Strait of Hurmoz and interaction with the Muslim

world. Both have strong, all-weather and time-tested friendship, in the past, present and also expected in the future.

**Keywords:** Pakistan, China, relations, Gwadar, region, geographical, strategic

## Introduction

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan came into being on the world map on 14th August 1947. It is located in-between 24° to 36° Northern latitude and 61° to 75° Eastern longitude. The total area is 796,096sq km. Pakistan is geographically located in the North West of South Asia. It has a shared border with four neighboring countries. In the east, India is located and has a 1600 km border except the Line of Control (LOC) and working boundary. China is in the north east with a shared 595 km border, Afghanistan is located in the north west, sharing a 2250 km long border (Durand line) and Iran is in the west and both sharing a 932 km border. In the south, Pakistan is linked with the Arabian Sea. The length of the coastal line is 1048 km. It is divided into two parts: Markran costal line and Karachi costal line. The geographical location of Pakistan is a strategic position which has attracted the world and regional powers to establish friendly relations. Pakistan is a getaway to the Central Asian Republics and Afghanistan. It allowed the US and ANTO forces in Afghanistan. Its border with Afghanistan, China, India and the Arabian Sea moves the tendency of the world in general and China in particular towards Pakistan.

The People's Republic of China (PRC) came on the world map on October 1, 1949. It is located in East Asia. China has shared its border with fourteen neighboring countries; Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bhutan, Burma, Vietnam, Korea, Laos, Mongolia, Russia, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan and also shares its border with the South China Sea. It is the world's third largest geographical state after Russia and Canada, and second economically after the United State of America (USA).<sup>1</sup> China's policies toward South Asia comprise state to state friendship on these principles, non-interference in internal affairs, respect of sovereignty of independence, confidence and understanding, and mutual trust. According to the aforementioned policy, Pakistan is the closest partner of China in the region (South Asia).

After the emergence of China, Pakistan was considered the first Muslim and the third non-communist state in the world which had recognized China, on January 4, 1950.<sup>2</sup> Both had established their diplomatic relations since early. In September 1950, for the seat of China in the United Nations (UN), Pakistan recognized and cosponsored a resolution in the UN, General Assembly.<sup>3</sup> For the protection of her security and safeguards, China interred in the Korean War in 1951. The US presented a resolution in the UN General Assembly to label China as an aggressor, but Pakistan did not cost vote but had refused voting against the neighbored

country.<sup>4</sup> This stance was appreciated by the PRC. Another major crucial factor in Sino-Pak relation was rejected the US offer and refused the involvement in Korean war 1950-53.

When Pakistan decided to join SEATO and CENTO, it was criticized by the PRC and also showed its despair. The misunderstanding was scrapped by the Pakistani representative (PM Muhammad Ali Bogra) and he also clarified “Pakistan has a threat from India, therefore these pacts have joint. Under these pacts we will improve the military sector, to protect the state sovereignty and national interest.” In 1955, at the Bandung conference, the Premier of PRC publically announced: “the day before yesterday after lunch i paid a visit to the prime minister of Pakistan. He told me that although Pakistan was a party to a military pact, Pakistan was not against China. Pakistan had no fear China would commit aggression against her. As a result, we achieved a mutual understanding although we are still against military treaties.”<sup>5</sup>

In the decade of the 1950's, misunderstanding and tension had arisen between both countries. The major tension was the boundary issue which emerged after the publication of PRC new map. China incorporated the northern area of GB with Xinjiang. Pakistan did not recognize the new published map, but it was not for a long time. In 1963, both countries came to negotiations and resolved their issue through a boundary agreement. According to the said agreement, China had returned 750sq miles of territory to Pakistan.<sup>6</sup> It was the positive reaction of Beijing after the Sino-Indian war (1962) due to Pakistan's diplomatic support with China.<sup>7</sup> In the same year both states had signed three other major treaties (Air, Trade and Cultural).<sup>8</sup>

The economic and military support of both states to each other whenever they are needed; during the Pak-India War 1965 and 1971, Beijing provided her support to Islamabad, both economically and diplomatically. Especially after the separation of Bangladesh (1971) China did not recognize it until Pakistan's recognition, and used a veto in the UN general assembly against Bangladesh. This support was to realize the Indian ambitions, territorial integrity and sovereignty of the peoples of Pakistan.<sup>9</sup> In the nuclear sector China has also cooperated with Pakistan, and helped in the development of small nuclear reactor weapons technology.<sup>10</sup> China transferred missile technology in 1990.<sup>11</sup> According to the recent report of National Defense University, the relations between two countries is unique and also they have different belief, but their relations bounded by their trust. They have close partnerships and cooperate at the multi-level, particularly in the economic and military. <sup>12</sup>Military sector is the core sector in their partnership; therefore China has been supplied arms included tanks, naval vessels and aircrafts.<sup>13</sup>

After 9/11 Pakistan became a non-NATO member and has provided its support to the US against the war on terror. Due to global change, Pakistan's foreign policy has also changed, but it does not lose the trust of its partner

(China). They also maintain their good friendship and brotherhood. In 2002 both countries signed an agreement for Gwadar port to make it a universal shipping center in the world. This project was divided into two phases; the first phase was inaugurated in 2007 and the second in 2013. Both initiated JF-17 thunder and also started joint military exercises after the victimization of Chinese citizens in Pakistan. Both celebrated the 60th anniversary of their diplomatic relationship in 2011. The exchange of high level executive visits was initiated from an early stage. Due to their high level visits and mutual understanding, they came into the new project which is called CPEC. This project was signed during PM Nawaz Sharif's regime in 2013. It is a mega project which will improve the economic sector of Pakistan. They have tried to consolidate their time-tested and all-weather strategic relationship.<sup>14</sup>

### **Gwadar Port as a Strategic Opportunity and Economic Potential**

Gwadar is a district and small fishing village of Baluchistan province. It is located on the beach of the Arabian Sea. During the regime of Gen. Ayoub Khan, in 1958 the village was purchased by the government of Pakistan from the kingship of Oman with the charge of \$3 million<sup>15</sup> It has been under the control of the Oman kingship since 1783, which was gifted to Oman by the Khan of Qillat. When Gen. When Pervez Musharraf came into power, he took a step to develop the said area for shipping and convert it to the port, which is known as Gwadar port. In 2002, Gen. Musharraf had signed an agreement with a neighboring country (China) to develop Gwadar port. China agreed to provide financial assistance for the development.<sup>16</sup> The project was divided into two phases. The first phase would be complete in 2007, and the second would be start from 2013. It is located at the distance of 460 km from the Qasim port and 400 km from the Strait of Hurmoz (the world shipping route near Chabahar port and the Persian Gulf). The port is the third deep sea port in the world and a marketable project. Geo-strategically, it has a significant location.

The port is geo-strategically located near the world's significant regions, in which the Middle East is considered the world's richest oil region, South Asia the world's highest populated region and Central Asia the world's more energetic and economically emerging region. All the said regions are located in Asia, which is the world's largest continent. The most significant feature of the port is the connection between the Central Asian Republics (CAR), South Asia, Gulf States and African states through the Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea. It is a significant point economically and strategically for the whole region generally and in particularly for China. China has a long shipping route that passes through the Strait of Malacca and then the South China Sea, where she faces challenges. The country felt that due to the issue of Taiwan and US involvement in her energy supply, export and import through the narrow Strait of Malacca may stop. The alternative route (Gwadar and KKH) provides an open route for export and import from the Indian Ocean and Middle East. Gwadar has also reduced the 10,000 km long

distance to only 4,500 km where she can easily access her market. The port has provided opportunities for China's approach towards the international market (African and European states) through the Red Sea and then the Mediterranean Sea.<sup>17</sup>

The deep sea port is playing an important role in the economic development of Beijing; the development rate of the country's economy is 9% each year with a \$1.5 trillion trade level of US. Its GNP is extending up to 7.3 % and has foreign trade assets of US \$601 billion.<sup>18</sup> Both (Pakistan and China) have been constructing road and railway link, these links will provide shipping way from Gwadar to PRC, CAR and Afghanistan. It is also considered a project of multi-diverse prospects for the different regions. Both are close to each other due to their multi-level projects. They have two good partners in the Indian Ocean,<sup>19</sup> consolidated their friendship and promoted a strategic partnership. China imagined Pakistan as the heart of a connection of trade corridor which linked China with the Middle East and the Indian Ocean. General Musharraf said that "China has been our very equal collaborator over the last thirty years and a naval outpost has been considered a strategic length for China for this project."<sup>20</sup>

China has launched the "string of the pearl strategy" to counter the Indian hegemony in the region. The PRC wants to achieve the status of a world power. The first step toward its goal of achievement is to beat its enemies. India is the major. Under the said strategy, Beijing has constructed sea ports in the surrounding areas of India, (Thailand, Burma, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Gwadar) which can help China to achieve its goal, because this port is strategically situated at a very key point for supplies.<sup>21</sup> There are three major advantages of the port:

1. It is near to warm water or Sea Line of Communication (SLOCs) to provide facilities for trans-shipment, it offers many opportunities and a gateway to Central Asia.
2. Secondly, the location of the port is in a safe place which is a long distance from India.
3. The climate of the place is appropriate.<sup>22</sup>

Gwadar port has provided strategic dominance in the area, particularly in the Arabian Sea. It also allows China shipping and monitors the Indian-US hegemony and their influence in the region. Beijing has developed a monitoring center in Myanmar at Coca Key to check the Indian navy action. According to the Washington report, the main interest of Beijing in constructing the port means to provide opportunities for influence and dominance over the place or region. General Musharraf said that the "Pak-China friendship trip from Karakoram highway to Gwader port truly depicts the friendship that Pakistan and China enjoy which has led from Karakoram in the north of Pakistan as the symbol of this friendship and has got all the way through Pakistan on to the coastline at Gwadar." No doubt the project showed all the possibilities of Chinese investment in Pakistan; it is a vital

symbol of their friendly relation. The port is still becoming a center for economic and security benefits and also one of the vital choice of Beijing.<sup>23</sup>

From the boundary city of Kashi to Peshawar, China's east-west railway plan envisions shattered. The in-out of Chinese cargo and energy can transferred through shortest way from Gwadar, Karachi to Peshawar and then Gilgit Baltistan and also use the same road and railway network for the same purpose.<sup>24</sup> Due to the significance of the port, both countries came on the new mega project which is called CPEC (China Pakistan Economic Corridor), it is a major turning point in Sino-Pak relationship. Through CPEC, China rapidly and easily accesses the international market, and CAR.<sup>25</sup> CPEC is an initiative of upcoming new projects; this project has opportunities for China to invest in Afghanistan and Iran to get her national interest.<sup>26</sup>

The port is a naval base for both Pakistan and China. It is also a potential maritime in the Arabian Sea and a strong navy base to counter the SU-Indian hegemony in the Indian Ocean. The port strategically offered China and Pakistan to safeguard their security and national interests. Both countries are strongly opposing the chief role of India and the USA in warm water, because they are creating hurdles in the way of import and export for them. The Indian-US strategy toward Central Asian States and the Strait of Hurmoz is a chief obstacle in the way to China.<sup>27</sup> India is the joint enemy of Pakistan and China; they have considered that the power of India will be reduced through sea and naval exercises. The United State of America has potential. She started naval and military exercises all over the world due to her superpower. It has military and economic interests in CAR and the Middle East. The major interest of the US is the approach towards CAR (highly energy-resource). To achieve this objective, the USA tried to access CAR through Pakistan and Afghanistan. This strategy of the US is a major hurdle and challenge for the future of China. China wants to secure its interests; therefore, the PRC has started naval exercises with its neighbour (Pakistan) to counter US-Indo hegemony and influence in the Arabian Sea & Indian Ocean. The port is a great opportunity, so they jointly launched naval exercises in the Arabian Sea.

#### **Importance of Karakorum Highway (KKH) and its Strategic Position**

Karakorum Highway is shortly known as KKH. It is one of the international trade route in the world, and located in Pakistan. The total length of KKH is 1300 km. The 887 km route passes through Pakistan while 423 km in China. KKH passes through the high mountains and the highest pass, Khunjrab; it is also considered the world's most dangerous road and flows along Pakistan's largest river, 'Indus River'. The construction of the road was initiated in 1959. After 27 years, its construction was completed in 1986 with the help of 1500 Chinese and Pakistani workers and engineers. This route has connected the two important areas, Xinjiang and the Hunza valley. Hunza is a tourist place which is a part of GB. It has been constructed



by both Pakistan and China because it provides China access to the Arabian Sea. KKH is the most attractive symbol in the Sino-Pak relationship, and also realized that the relationship between both countries is higher than the mountains. The route plays an important role in the trade sector. It has further considered the energy shipping corridor and way to Gwadar deep sea port which has connected Pakistan with the Persian Gulf.<sup>28</sup> Due to its grander project, in 1967, the silk route was reopening for traders, after this initiatives trade between both states was started. river,

Central Asian States and Afghanistan are landlocked states. They have no link with the ocean. Pakistan is located in the neighbor of CAR and border shared with Afghanistan; it provides a route link between CAR, Afghanistan and Indian Ocean through KKH. It is also providing a great influence of China in Pakistan and in Arabian Sea as well. The trade link between Pakistan, CAR and China through KKH. The strategic significance of the KKH is to connect Tibet and Xinjiang via the area of Aksai. China has used the said route for its military potential, because it is providing military dominance in the region. If a war starts between China and India, KKH is an opportunity to use for China's military exercises. The other hand, in the case of an attack on Pakistan by India, China could help and send her military in support of Pakistan through the great route. During the terrorist exercise, it was unsafe due to its length and geographical connection,<sup>29</sup> but bridges on the KKH and Indus River protect it from the revolt of military bases along the highway.

China agreed financial help with Pakistan to upgrade the KKH, regarding the construction and up-gradation, President Musharraf during his visit to China said "when the rout will develop it will be providing opportunities for the export and imports of China and short route to Arabian Sea, at the same way it can serve to provide by land route for the trade among China and India." China and India are the two major markets of the region and Pakistan as well, due to the up-gradation of Highway they would easily trade among each other. Pakistan and China have started many projects in which oil pipeline, gas, railway links and up-gradation of KKH. These projects are the output of the highway. Both states have been constructing the net of routes in Pakistan under the mega project CPEC, while some have constructed the Makran coastal highway, which is also strategically important for China and Pakistan as well.

Along the KKH, a railway line has been spread. This line connects the Xinjiang region and Pakistan, and the link played an important role in trade between both states. The main aim of the development of the railway line is transportation of energy resources. The alternative shipping source for the oil and gas pipe line is a railway link if the pipeline is blocked, so its alternative source will be linking Gwadar and Xinjiang for export and import facilities. The highway is a corridor between Pakistan and China; it provides the shortest access to China to her trade market. It has been promoting the

economic and strategic ties between two neighbors. Formally, trade between both countries via the highway started in 1978. That time it was not completed. The route is known as Sino-Pak friendship way, and their all-weather relationship has consolidated due to their large investment and mega projects.

### **Gilgit Baltistan (GB) as an Opportunity for China**

Kashmir was a princely state during the British Raj; it was the largest state which was surrounded by great Hemalias, and shared borders with four countries; Pakistan, Afghanistan, China and India.<sup>30</sup> It has the longest border with the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The territory of Kashmir was ruled by different dynasties. Sikh was the last one. Raja Hari Sing was the last king of Sikh rule. After the division of British India, the state of Kashmir became a tension between Pakistan and India, but the third participant (China) was also involved in the tension. The total area of the state was 86772 sq. miles, which is controlled by the three countries. Pakistan has 33145 sq miles, China has 14500 sq miles while India has 39127 sq miles. The valley of Kashmir has a tourist place which has the coldest weather and some many glaciers are situated, in which Siachin Glacier is one of the major. Pakistan and India fought three wars on Kashmir. The first was in 1948, the second in 1965 and the third was in 1999, while China also fought with India in 1962. Due to the geographical location and geo-strategic and economic importance, all the three aforementioned countries incorporated the area of Kashmir into themselves. It is a landlocked state which has no border with the sea and oceans but is rich in natural vegetation, water and other natural resources. Due to its geo-strategic significance, China has been busy with many projects, particularly in AJK. GB is the northwestern region of Kashmir. It provides China access to Pakistan's other regions. The world international trade route KKH also passed through the region, because the area shared a border with China's Xinjiang province. The area has been provided an opportunity for Beijing's link with three countries (Pakistan, Afghanistan and India). On the other hand, Siachen Glacier is also very vital for China. Through the said glacier, both Pakistan and China undermine the security of India, which is making it strong day by day. This glacier has natural hurdles for all countries, but China is getting more benefits from here.

Gilgit Baltistan and AJK are contagious to India, which has a key opportunity for Pakistan and China. The region is under the control of Pakistan, the strength of GB is cutoff the Indian link with CAR; Kashmir is a territory which provides Indian access to Afghanistan the then CAR, but China and Pakistan are jointly making hurdles and challenges in way of India. It is a major strategic point which has provided China with military potential against India because the area connected with Indian Occupied Kashmir (IOK). The region has also helped China's string of the pearl strategy. The whole of Kashmir has the same strategic significance but India



does not allow China to use the IOK for her interest. Therefore, China has been focused on GB and AJK. There are three core interests of China in Kashmir;

1. The western part of Kashmir is a trade corridor that provides a link between Xinxiang and Gwadar port and also Gwadar with CAR. While the eastern part of Kashmir cannot link with KKH and Gwadar port, because it is mostly at a large distance and under the control of its competitor (India).
2. China's interest in western Kashmir is, has provided access to Afghanistan and Iran. China has shared its own border with Afghanistan but it does not provide an easy route due to the mountainous region, underdeveloped and long distance to Kabul.
3. China is interested in influencing the region beyond its borders. In the south of China, India is located, which has a threat to China's security. She wants to secure her sovereignty and national integrity, thus GB and AJK would provide the best opportunity.<sup>31</sup>

### **Counter the US-Indian Hegemony in Central Asia and in Afghanistan**

After the disintegration of the USSR, the Central Asian Republic states were the subsequent independence, which have five states. The region is known as Central Asia (CA). It is rich in energy resources, located in the south of Russia and in the east of the Western world. These states are Muslims. Pakistan showed its great interest in establishing close diplomatic relations with them. CA and Afghanistan (located in the north west of Pakistan) are landlocked states. Pakistan has provided them with a transit route to the Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean. Due to the huge natural resources, the region has great significance. All the world seeks connections with these states and their role in the region.<sup>32</sup> Pakistan is located in the neighbor of CA which is separated by Afghanistan territory (Wakhan). Pakistan provides a short way 2600 km to the Arabian Sea, while on the other hand, Turkey is 5000 km and 4500 km via Iran. The port of Gwadar is a gateway to CAR and Afghanistan.<sup>33</sup>

Central Asia is the neighbor of the communist bloc, particularly China and Russia. Communists may counter and reduce their influence over other worlds in the region. India and the United States of America want to control the dominance of the communist bloc. Therefore, China felt a threat to her opposition and made Pakistan a friend to block and counter Indian-US hegemony in the region. They jointly construct the Gwadar port and pressurize to withdraw US forces from Afghanistan, Iraq and the Indian Ocean. Both the US and India are interested in CA, particularly, India wants to approach, but its way cuts by Pakistan.<sup>34</sup> Pakistan also stopping the few strategic benefits of Indian therefore India show the bad image of Pakistan to CAR. The foreign policy of Pakistan is always revolving around its strategic balance with India; thus Pakistan has been supporting the Taliban and Pashtun government in Kabul to cut the Indian influence in Kabul

towards CA. The strategic partnership among Beijing and Islamabad is getting their national interest. Beijing used Pakistan as a corridor for her oil and gas from Iran and the Gulf States. The major interests of India in CAR are the following;

- 1) Top the arenas energy resources and follow the economic and geostrategic objectives.
- 2) To check the influence and supremacy of Pakistan and also to check the possibilities of the emergence of a Muslim block.
- 3) To control the emergence of Chinese power, influence and hegemony in the region, CAR has been considered the central part of the great game.<sup>35</sup>

Another major player which is the partner of India is the US; it has supported the role of India in CA and in Afghanistan. Due to economic and strategic interests, the US came to Afghanistan and started a military operation against terrorism. Afghanistan is located in the south of CA. It provides access for the US and others to the CAR. The chief interest of America in Central Asia is to capture energy resources. The United States has been pursuing a strategy of nominations in a bid to occupy the economic and military profile. Washington needs an alley that can help to contest the regional power (China). The alley is found in South Asia (India). For the purpose of the extension of military alliances and improving the intelligence agencies, the US established friendly relations with India. The major military alliance of the US is NATO, which exercises in the Gulf region, to secure and protect US interests. Pakistan provides a route to Afghanistan for NATO forces, and also may block its route. That is the main objective of China to counter US influence and hegemony over Pakistan.<sup>36</sup>

### **Pakistan; the Neighbor of Muslim Countries**

In the northwest of South Asia, Muslim countries are situated. Pakistan has shared its border with two Muslim countries; Iran is located in the west while Afghanistan is in the North West. Iran has connected Pakistan with the Middle East while Afghanistan with Central Asia by land. Both regions are rich in natural resources. The Middle East has a sufficient amount of oil, in which Saudi Arabia has the largest, Iraq has the second largest and Iran has third. All these Islamic countries are a member of the OIC (organization of Islamic cooperation), including Pakistan. China is not a member of the OIC and also located at a distance from the Middle East and Gulf states, it has not connected with the rich oil resources region. Pakistan and Afghanistan are the two countries that can provide a link for China towards the said region. Afghanistan has been declared as a buffer zone which is not secure for the Chinese. Although Pakistan is a single option for the Beijing, which would to be establish its link with the Muslim world.<sup>37</sup> The western province of China, Xinjiang, is a Muslim populated province which is considered the 6th of China's total territory. Xinjiang province

shares its border with Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Russia, Mongolia, India and Pakistan. Both Pakistan and Xinjiang have similarities in their culture and religions. Due to their similarities, both are considered sister cities. Xinjiang is a backward and underdeveloped area. China wants to develop this region. Therefore, Beijing has a friendly relationship with its neighboring countries, particularly with Pakistan. In 1980, Pakistan gave permission to Chinese Muslims (Uighurs) to perform Haj and also get religious education in Pakistani Madrasa. Presently, the strength of Uighurs in Pakistan is not larger than CAR but their activities are increasing.<sup>38</sup> Pakistan is geo-strategically located in the belt of Islamic countries; it provides facilities to Chinese Muslims for their religious practices. The country has the only nuclear power in the Muslim world and has good relations with all the Muslim countries. These features can also help China to establish her good relations with Muslims for the interest of her national and Muslim population. If Iran and Turkey become the military and nuclear powers in the region, it will not be a threat to China because Pakistan may resolve the tensions which are creating between China and the Muslim world.

The western area of PRC (Xinjiang province) has a backward Muslim population and is less developed. Peoples are migrating toward the east to fulfill their needs. Beijing has launched a “go west policy” to stop the migration. China wants to develop its western region and minimize the economic gap between east and west. For the said objective, Beijing has launched and initiated construction projects in its western region. CPEC is a mega project which can provide an opportunity to develop the mentioned area and reduce the economic disparity. Pakistan is providing its social assistance to Xinjiang Muslims, which is an example of their friendship. The strategic ties between both states have concreted after the developing stage of their relationship. The Chinese assistance provides everything about energy, infrastructure, industry and economy. Due to the geo-strategic significance of Pakistan, regional and world powers want to establish crucial relations with the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

### **Conclusion**

Geographically, Pakistan is located in South Asia. It has a shared border with four neighboring countries. The Arabian Sea is in the south, which is a strategic point to connect the country with the other world. The Central Asian Republics are nearby, while separated by the Wakhan corridor. Pakistan and China are the two contagious parts of Asia. China is the world's largest population, having a strong economic and military position. To reduce the influence of regional and world powers, China is trying to establish good relations with neighboring countries. The core focus of Beijing is Pakistan. Pakistan is a gateway to CAR and Afghanistan and also provides a land route to the Middle East. The coastline is a major strength of the country because the state can access the international market,

the same opportunity for China. Beijing has a long shipping route that passes through the Strait of Malacca; the route is unsafe and long distance. KKH and Gwadar port are opportunities for China to reduce the distance and provide an alternate way to the Strait of Malacca and the South China Sea. Gwadar port is strategically important for China because it is a part of China's "string of the pearl strategy".

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan has a trade corridor between Afghanistan, CA and China. The gas and oil pipe line of China passed along with KKH. Basically, KKH has considered the trade corridor among the said regions. This route connected Gilgit Baltistan with Xinjiang province. GB can protect and promote the economic and strategic interests of China. It cuts Indian access to CAR and reduces the US-Indian influence in the region. Both (Pakistan and China) have strong and time-tested relationships. The development of their all-weather relationship is a strategic partnership for the peace and prosperity of the region. Because of their self-interest, they have established brotherhood relationship, both support each other when they have a need. China has been enthusiastically invested in Pakistan. The major project has been initiated by PRC in Pakistan as CPEC; it is a mega project which would help Beijing's "go west policy", and also improve the economic condition of Pakistan. The geographical location of Pakistan is an opportunity for the world in general and in particular for China to fulfill their national interests. Due to its geostrategic position, Pakistan has been getting economic and military assistance from the US and China.

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