



## THE SCENARIO OF CHINA-PAKISTAN DIPLOMATIC TIES

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### **Abstract:**

*There are many purposes of the ethical and close diplomatic ties between China-Pakistan collaboration. Both countries arranged the foundation of their friendship on brotherhood mutual interests in all the fields of existence. This paper explains that diplomatic ties between China and Pakistan strengthened despite China's collaboration with Pakistan in Geo-politics, cultural and educational exchange programs, China-Pakistan economic corridor (CPEC) and Gwadar port. Admittedly, China has an imperative role in Pakistan's progress. The current project of the CPEC plays an important role in Pakistan's development. Additionally, the goal of China's historical construction of the Gwadar port, various other developments for a better future of Pakistan, and China's friendship relation has been long contributory in supporting it. China-Pakistan diplomatic ties continually supported each other “all-weather”, as recently helped proved during the Covid-19 epidemic to become an example to the world in friendship.*



**Keywords:** **background,** politics assistance, economic influence, Gwadar port development, cultural and education exchange, China-Pakistan economic corridor project.

## **Introduction**

The diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China follow their starting point to the Silk Route; as the conventional connections were set up in the year 1950. Among the Muslim states Pakistan was the major one to perceive China, and Pakistan International Airlines was the principal carrier to work an assistance to or from China. China has consistently arisen as Pakistan's most significant exchanging accomplice (Holtom et al., 2013). Thus, the then Prime Minister of Pakistan Hussain Shaheed Suhrawardy visited China in October 1956, and then Chinese counterpart Zhou En Lai visited Pakistan in same year (Zeb 2012). Especially the relations between both countries have ushered in a new era of historic friendship since the first half of the 1960s. During the boundary demarcation agreement, which took place in 1963, Pakistan looked for China's observation and finally, the two countries agreed to sign a provisional nature, aiming at the borderline between China's Xinjiang region and the adjoining areas (Dobell 1964).

Besides, the most important project was the construction of Karakoram Highway (KKH), which started in 1959 and was completed in 1978. Karakoram Highway (KKH) produced a milestone work by enhancing the trade between both countries. It was also a fantastic value for tourism marketing between the two countries (Munir 2018). China-Pakistan built the Trans-Karakorum highway (KKH), the world's highest road and known as the "Friendship Highway" or "Eighth Wonder of the World" (Riedel, Bruce and Singh, 2010). The Karakoram highway was built in 1978, allowing trade with China over the land. The Karakoram Highway (KKH) was up-gradated in 2006 to further develop exchange and financial relations among China and Pakistan. The Karakoram Highway (KKH), which goes through the Khunjerab Pass, has now been reached out down to the developing port city of Gwadar. The development of the Karakoram Highway (KKH) will support financial movement and the working limit of weighty vehicles. During the visit, the higher specialists of China and Pakistan consented to fabricate a monetary passage among Gwadar and Kashgar (Khetran 2014).

## **Politics Assistance between China-Pakistan**

The diplomatic ties between China-Pakistan political assistance were always strong. "Pakistan was the first Islamic state, second commonwealth and the third non-communist country which recognized the People's Republic of China on 5 January 1950 and established diplomatic relations on 21 May 1951" (Ali 2009). The Foreign Minister of



Pakistan, Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, emphasized the importance of solidifying Pakistan's relations with China. Accordingly, “the choice of allies is likewise influenced by the internal political configurations of states apart from the general ideological preferences” (Snyder 1984) as China-Pakistan diplomatic ties remained persistent to grow into a deeper relationship during the decade of the 1980s. Though the two countries had many ideological differences and varying opinions between their populations, their cooperation has increased during the past decades.

The emergence of the Pak-China Joint Committee in 1982 resulted from this essential step in this path (Wolf, S.O, 2020). And with the ultra-modern business exchanges related to Pakistan's buying and selling in cotton, manufacturers, textiles, raw materials, iron, steel, cement, food, rice and cement were included. Between 1951 and 1990, China and Pakistan signed approximately 116 agreements and protocols concerning economic, political, technical, and cultural components (Sekhar, 2005). This period also enabled both countries to shape their strategic structure and bilateral trade relations. By 1980, bilateral trade had accelerated to US\$ 402 million, and further, it had multiplied to US\$ 424 million by 199 (Malik 2013). In the twenty-first Century, China-Pakistan diplomatic ties opened a brand new path while General Pervez Musharraf assumed the government of Pakistan. So it turned Musharraf's effort to inaugurate the correct relationship with China. President Pervez Musharraf visited China in 2005. He said, “We are happy to have strong relations with China that have proved time-tested and vast-primarily based. He added more that visit will further enhance our political and economic relations”(Kataria, Jafar Riaz and Naveed 2014).

### **The Economic Influence between China-Pakistan**

The Free Trade Agreement (FTA) signed in 2006 increased the economic influence amongst China & Pakistan. It was the visit of Chinese President Hu Jintao in Islamabad. This agreement increases the trade between China & Pakistan from \$1 billion (1998) to \$15.15 billion (Vandewalle 2015). In terms of long-term financial goals, President Asif Ali Zardari tasked Pakistan's planning commission with developing an economic charter that would support developmentally bilateral trade between Beijing and Islamabad while also attracting Chinese investment. As of 2008, the two-way trade between China-Pakistan had already risen to \$ 7 billion from a meager \$ 2 billion in 2003. It had grown to \$ 15 billion by 2010 (Akhtar, 2014). After signing the China-Pakistan free trade agreement (CPFTA), Pakistan increased its capability to grow its exports from \$575 million in 2006—07 to \$2.1 billion in 2014—2015. Likewise, an increase of \$3.5 billion and \$10.1 billion occurred in imports from China to Pakistan in 2006-07 and 2014-15, respectively (Muhammad 2016). Bilateral diplomacy is being established during the last six decades and declared in 2011 to



celebrate the China-Pakistan diplomatic relationship. Both the countries are conserving a chain of “commemorative activities covering fields like politics, economy, culture, education, and sports, many others” (Khan 2011).

China-Pakistan economic corridor (CPEC) project will enable a significant role in the economy of Pakistan. The history of politically strategic data collection and analysis between China and Pakistan has benefited Pakistan's GDP (GDP). Nonetheless, an examination of the facts reveals that (Figure 1), in 2011, Pakistan's gross domestic product (GDP) economic growth rate was the lowest (3.6%), compared to (4.9%) in 2020 in particular. While China's gross domestic product (GDP) economic growth rate was the highest in 2011 (9.5%) has declined over the last few years to 6.3% in 2020.



Figure 1: Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rates (%) of Pakistan-China.  
Source: International Monetary Fund.

In this situation, Pakistan will have a great opportunity for development because the China-Pakistan economic corridor (CPEC) friendship project will improve Pakistan's growth, and the country's conditions will improve in the future.

### **China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Strategy**



To further promote CPEC project Strategy; The premier Li Keqiang said at the time of his visit to Pakistan in 2013 that “good neighbors are a blessing” and emphasized that Pakistan is an “iron and trustworthy” friend (Bhattacharjee 2015). Furthermore, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's visit to China in the first week of July 2013 was accelerated due to this inspiration. Eight Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) were signed to assist Pakistan's economy and improve connectivity between the two countries. (Rizvi 2014). Yet, the Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to Pakistan in April 2015, maintaining a friendship with China, is integral to our foreign policy. Chinese President said at this event that “I come here for the first time “I am in my own brother home” (Tharoor, I. (2015). During his visit, the two leaders signed 51 agreements and MOUs on Chinese investments, totaling US\$ 46 billion over the next 10 to 15 years (Markey, Daniel S and West 2016). The CPEC goals present a huge sum of advantages to the development state of Pakistan. The four fundamental areas which would play a key function in helping Pakistan encompass the energy tasks, conversation infrastructure, Gwadar Port and International airport and the Industrial zones (Ahmar 2014). By way of a part of the CPEC, around 22 energy projects were set up inside the primary segment of generating finances in China. Since the energy projects had of various potential and kind policy-makers, intend to decide where to install this flora (Akber 2015). The goal of the CPEC project was to add 10,400 MW of capacity by 2018, which will decrease the status quo shortages and result in greater economic growth. The bidding for those projects was competitive for Chinese corporations because of their lucrative nature (Boyce 2017). The energy shortage in Pakistan was predicted to be decreased probably through this mega project because it's anticipated that CPEC will enable the country to minimize the electricity shortage to zero (Abid, Massarrat and Ashfaq 2015). CPEC will deliver gigantic economic opportunities for both countries. The assignment of CPEC will hold an investment of billions of dollars and consists of numerous opportunities for Pakistan (Boyce 2017).

### **Teamwork of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Project**

In his first victory speech, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran decided to assume office in 2018. He said that our primary plan would strengthen our relationships with China in all the fields, especially the CPEC project. The project of CPEC relation would have to add many modifications to Pakistan's economic system, and direct involvement within the production and operations of numerous tasks below the CPEC framework has opened a lot of opportunities for a large portion of the population. In the future, all sectors of Pakistani society will greatly benefit from this important corridor (Ijaz 2018). To further strengthen the project of the CPEC, as Prime Minister Imran Khan officially visited China during his visit, numerous fields of existence were discussed among the two countries. And two sides



also signed 15 Agreements/ MOU on a range of bilateral issues in the region were included defines safety and terrorism confrontation, people-to-people and tradition linkages, Chinese poverty comfort model, marine, technology, space, culture interchange, and generation, area, environmental and agricultural collaboration and multiple joint economic relations (CGTN, 2018).

### **Gwadar Port Development**

General Pervez Musharraf viewed the development of Gwadar port in a serious way, and in May 2000, inside the eleventh meeting of the China-Pakistan Joint Economic Commission, China communicated interest in the creation of Gwadar port (Ejaz, A., and Jamshed, 2018). Chinese Prime Minister Zhu Rongji's visited Pakistan in May 2001 and consented to six arrangements worth \$1 billion, including Gwadar Port expansion and Coastal Highway between the two nations. China was in like manner aided the development of Gwadar Port. Nonetheless, China was the essential financial backer inside the main stage by contributing \$198 million, while Pakistan contributed \$50 million to make it a remote ocean port, which started during Musharraf's time in 2002 and was finished in 2006 (Hussain, J., Yuan, Z., and Ali, 2016).

The greatest financial was the help of the Chinese government. The functional control of the port was given over to a state-run Overseas Port Holdings Limited in 2013. China in like manner teamed up inside the development of the Makran waterfront parkway to interface Gawadar Port to Karachi in the second stage other than the development of the port (Kataria, Jafar Riaz and Naveed 2014). China contributed \$200 million to foster a waterfront interstate that interfaces the Gawadar port with Karachi. It additionally helped Pakistan in business and specialized regions to further develop the Makran Coastal Highway, built by multiparty (Bashir, S., Arshad, M., and Barech, 2019). The Gawadar profound seaport will likewise help China by offering it a beneficial situation in the energy-rich Caspian Region. Gawadar port will be connected to the Xingjian region of China through rail and road links. Gawadar would help China increase its energy by providing it with the shortest route (Javaid 2016). Functional Gawadar port connected with China and Central Asia can play a dynamic role in the economic revival of Pakistan, being positioned at the crossroads of large supplying and communicating markets (AFRIDI, L., & KHAN ). The Strategy of Gawadar port, a deep seaport, is a construction project; being given to China also supported the relations between Pakistan and China in geopolitical aspects. Pakistan's strategic importance maintains a key position in international politics, further enhanced by constructing the Gawadar deep seaport. It will help Pakistan to keep a strict check on Indian movements in the region and will also help to boost our trade because it will be a gateway to Central Asian Republics (CARs).





It will also strengthen the relations between China and Pakistan because China will find the shortest way to get access to Central Asian, Middle East and African markets (Khan, M. M., & Kasi 2017). It has rightly been said that China-Pakistan relationships cannot be seen in the context of dollars and pounds. Gwadar seaport symbolizes Pak-China relations because China and Pakistan will benefit from this project (Usman n.d.). Therefore, China has also constructed infrastructure projects in Pakistan such as the Pakistan Sports Center and China-Pakistan Friendship Center, Karakoram highway, Faqeer Primary School, and a District School in FATA. China has attracted great attention in the development of Baluchistan in establishing the Gawadar East-bay Expressway and the brand new Gawadar in international Airport. Besides, it also took active role in social and livelihood efforts (Ambassador Yao Jing's Speech at the 5th CPEC Media Forum., 2019).

### **China-Pakistan Cultural Exchange Programs**

China and Pakistan are both ancient civilizations with a long history of friendship dating back over 2,000 years in the past. They backed each other up and worked together. This "all-weather strategic partnership and relationship is considered a classic in interstate relation" (Khan, M. M., & Kasi 2017). To further promote the culture, Both countries signed a bilateral cultural agreement on 26 March 1965 to deepen their friendship via culture, arts and technical cooperation. The exchange of educationist exports in science broadcasting and journalists, performing artists, television and cinema institutions of both (Khan, M. Malik, Ijaz, S., & Farwa, 2017). Form 1980, Pakistan and China visited each other to promote the cultural Delegation programmer. People of both countries had the opportunity to understand each other's culture. Thus, a series of cultural programs launched to promote the culture between the countries proved very useful in different fields of life like TV, the film industry, and dramas. While the establishment of Digital Television Terrestrial Multimedia Broadcasting (DTMB) in Pakistan greatly enhanced the exchanges of universities, media, film and TV, youth delegations, entrepreneurs and the establishment of the cultural center in both countries. 2015 was celebrated as the "China-Pakistan Year of Friendly Exchanges" (Jamil, S., Shah, S. A., & Malik 2019). The strategy of the China-Pakistan economic corridor (CPEC) project plays an important role in promoting cultural ties between both countries. The China-Pakistan economic corridor (CPEC) will promote a distinct way of life and culture between Pakistan and China (Ali, L. Shah, S. J., & BiBi, 2017). The China-Pakistan strategy is working on many projects like culture and tourism. The friendship of the CPEC venture can even inspire investments in scenic spots and hotels within the region. Such improvement in the tourism zone will, in opportunity, benefit the public of the region and the economy of Pakistan. Presently, the bus facility is operational from Gilgit Baltistan to the Chinese border. Air routes connect the two cities, and 12 flights take off each day (Sheikh 2016). Pakistan maintains an



example position with the growing global environment. The ancient inheritance and culture may be readily apparent in this historic region. The country attracts a large number of tourist attractions at Swat, Malam, Murri, Jabba, Kalam, Balakot, Shangla, Paras, Ayubia, Chitral Gilgit, Sharan, Shinu, Lulusar, Shogran, Dudupatsar, Naran, and Kaghan valleys, Lake Saifulmuluk, Malika Parbat, Supat valley, and other ancient highland ranges in the country (Arshad, et. al, 2018).

In the ranking, Pakistan was listed among the 10 coolest locations, which Forbes published in 2019. The world tourist advisors had changed their views about Pakistan as declaring it quite safe for travel. Similarly, the welcoming attitude of Pakistan's society, mouth-watering food and architectural, cultural and archaeological allures are aspects that tourists visit Pakistan. (Pakistan Today 2019)

### **Educational Exchange Programs**

The connection among Pakistan and China likewise empowers instructive trade programs. Language is the most basic instrument in advancing instruction trade participation and individuals to-individuals contacts. As indicated by You Yi, Cultural Counselor of China in Pakistan, "Instructive trade programs in China and Pakistan play a unique part in two-sided relations" (The National 2017). The Strategy relationship of the two nations pointed toward concluding joint trade programs in various fields of schooling. The two nations have set up Chinese and Urdu dialects and different review habitats. In such manner, the National University of Modern Language (NUML), in the capital city Islamabad led classes in the Chinese language. Chief Li of China consented to send 1000 instructors in Pakistan for showing the Chinese language. In 2012, the then President Asif Ali Zardari let his Chinese hosts know that the Chinese language was a discretionary subject in Sindh schools. The CPEC project by implication impacts instruction because of the expanding number of Pakistani understudies in Chinese colleges. It will assist Pakistan with accomplishing top notch training elevated to reasonable tutoring. China and Pakistan have put a huge amount in CPEC projects, turning into an unmistakable instrument in instructive improvement (Haidar, S., and Fang 2019).

Then again, China analyzed measures to encourage better information on the Pakistani monetary environment and society among Chinese business colleges. Scholarly projects and chief preparing at business colleges in the two countries might profit from a practical handle of Chinese and Urdu, notwithstanding English. Customary gatherings, research articles, classes, and meetings might help with acquiring a superior comprehension of Chinese and Pakistani economies, societies, laws, migration and joint endeavors issues, and the fuse of such commitments into the college educational plan (Javaid, U., and Javaid





2016). Colleges in China and Pakistan assume a significant part in creating informative techniques in various areas. Pakistani received 65 scholarships from China, while Chinese students received 6 scholarships from Pakistan. In 2003, both countries began cooperation on educational exchange programs. In this connection, the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan awarded a scholarship to Pakistani students to study in China. This agreement resulted in the sending of 72 Pakistani students to China and the arrival of Chinese students in Pakistan (Kataria, Jafar Riaz and Naveed 2014). With 28,023 understudies, Pakistan positions third among the unfriendly worldwide understudies right now examining in China, as indicated by China's Ministry of Education.

In 2020, 6,156 Pakistani Students were tried out a Ph.D. program in china, 3,600 at Masters programs, 11,100 in Bachelors programs and 3,000 in Short Term Exchange Programs across China. Pakistani understudies additionally concentrate on the Chinese language, clinical, designing, PC innovation, among different subjects (The Express Tribune 2019). Beijing currently granted huge scope assets for instructive and preparing developers, especially to advance the norm of schooling. Aside from this, different instructive and social foundations have been set up in Pakistan to advance Chinese culture, language, legislative issues, economy, and history (Aijazuddin 2000).

### **China-Pakistan Support in COVID-19 Condition**

In the situation of COVID-19, the friendship of China-Pakistan collaboration was standing collectively at each great moment. In December 2019, three individuals with pneumonia were diagnosed with a new coronavirus (2019-nCoV). Which was associated with the bunch of intense respiratory cases in Wuhan, China. In any case, the hereditary examination observed that it is emphatically connected with SARS-CoV and hereditarily groups inside the class Beta Covid, building up a striking clade in ancestry B of the subgenus Sarbeco infection along with two bat-inferred SARS-like follows (World Health Organization.2020) (Zhu, N., Zhang, D., Wang, W., Li, X., Yang, B., Song, & Niu 2020). In this circumstance, Pakistan stood firm with his iron friend of China and a close friend of Pakistan was provided with the medical supplies in China. The cargo of 6,800 pairs of gloves, 300,000 medical masks and 800 hazmat suits were from the stocks of the public hospital across the country (The Tribune 2020). China has proved itself a real friend of Pakistan when the number of reported cases in Pakistan was increasing Pakistan continuously.

According to Chinese Ambassador Yao Jing, "China supported emergency help to Pakistan for prevention and controls. Covid-19 300,000 masks, included 12,000 test kits,



10,000 protective suits and 4 million U.S. dollars to construct hospitals. Pakistan and China have always stood by one other in the face of adversity” (mofa.gov.pk, 2020). During the break of coronavirus in Pakistan, Chinese Ambassador Yao Jing declared that the temporary challenges of coronavirus would not hinder the multibillion-dollar projects of the CPEC. He added that the Chinese committed to complete cooperation with Pakistan to construct the CPEC project. Similarly, Shah Mahmood Qureshi, the Foreign Minister of Pakistan, said a Conversation with the APP news channel, “China and Pakistan are committed to constructing CPEC, the flagship project of the flagship project Belt and Road Initiative. He expressed the confidence that the CPEC strategy friendship would be carried out promptly by all those working under the partnership.” because Pakistan and China have a friendship that is stronger than steel. China has always stood with Pakistan, offering its experience in dealing with emergencies difficult times.

Additionally, the Co-founder & former executive chairman Alibaba institution Jack MA foundation announced emergency medical Equipment, 50 thousand testing kits and 5 million masks to donate to Pakistan people. Chinese companies stood with Pakistan inside the combat in the pandemic of Covid-19 (The Dawn 2020a). Similarly, in the past, the strategy of both countries has always been to stand by each other in every trouble. China sent RMB 10 million in humanitarian relief to Pakistan, which was later converted into the first batch of foreign aid to arrive in Pakistan in recent years, when the catastrophic outbreak of the October 2015 earthquake took place alongside the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Correspondingly, the government of Pakistan sent immediate assistance of relief materials of more than 10 tons when China was smashed by an earthquake in Wenchuan in 2008 and donated 22,260 tents in the affected area. Likewise, in 2016, Pakistan was given free cash assistance of \$ 10 million to help the FATA region's people return their homes. (“Ambassador Yao Jing’s Speech at the 5th CPEC Media Forum.” 2019).

## **Conclusion**

China-Pakistan friendship is primarily based on trust, brotherhood and cooperation. Without a doubt, the China-Pakistan relationship is analogous to a tree that grows large and powerful (Asia 2015). China-Pakistan irons brother relation supports each other in each circumstance, which is the world's greatest example. The relationship between China and Pakistan has played an important role in creating long-term political unity. However, China has always supported Pakistan in economic, energy-providing, Gwadar port, the Karakoram Highway (KKH), education and many other fields. Recently, China has won the war against the outbreak of Covid-19, while now China stands with Pakistan in the war of Covid-19. China is also providing financial support, shared experience, special medical



staff provide and medical equipment to Pakistan because China has never left Pakistan alone in any situation. In this position, the friendship between both countries will be like a strong rock. Another side China has proved its friendship that backing Pakistan in the field of education, and even China is providing a Scholarship platform for Pakistani students. In this way, the culture between the two countries will be fostered people will be able to comprehend each other's culture and encourage tourism. China-Pakistan has always supported each other at all-Weather. The friendship between Pakistan and China has a long history, and it currently has deep roots in the hearts of the people of both countries.



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