

Growing Role of China in South Asia through the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)

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Abstract: China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is a strategic foreign policy initiative that was launched in 2013. Its goal is to achieve international trade and dominance by facilitating projects that focus on infrastructure development, economic growth, and cross-cultural exchange. In South Asia, the BRI has brought with it an extensive range of projects that have improved China's connectivity with the region. These projects offer a variety of opportunities for the countries involved, as they can utilize their resources to increase revenue while addressing a host of complex issues like debt traps, threats to sovereignty, and an unbalanced regional order. This research focuses on China's BRI initiatives in South Asia and their impact on the countries of the region. It will assist the nations of South Asia in making the most of the benefits and getting past the obstacles that the BRI presents.

Key Words: China, BRI, South Asia, CPEC, MRI, infrastructure, culture, economic growth

INTRODUCTION

China in the recent time introduces its soft power approach through its BRI. The initiative focuses on the goal to have peaceful rise through economic growth, cultural diplomacy and infrastructural development provided to the less developed nations. The One Belt and One Road (OBOR) Initiative of China also known as Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is a global development strategy that has been introduced by the China's President Xi Jinping in 2013 with an ambition to revive Silk Road of China that has been the great passage of trade and commerce in Han Dynasty that made Chinese trade extended to Persian, Roman and other region of the world. The desire of China is to revive that past glory and to achieve the same prestige and prosperity as it had in ancient times. The modern Silk road is aimed to globalized Chinese trade and culture as it connect Central Asia, Europe and Middle East to China through road routes as well as through Sea Lanes.

The initiative expanded along three routes across the Eurasia and a marine road that connected the East Asia and the Europe via the Southeast Asia and the South Asia, traveling through two routes from Africa and Arabia. At first, only 58 countries were partners in the initiative (van Noort, 2022, p.1). Today, almost 150 countries are partners of BRI (van Noort, 2022, p.76). The BRI focuses on foreign policy, infrastructure, business, finance, and people-to-people connections.

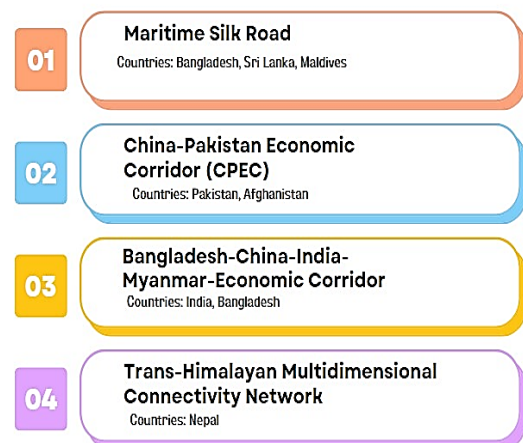
In South Asia several flagship projects have been introduced that aim to focus human resource, science and technology, railway links, and infrastructure development. It also emphasizes vocational training, telecommunication, the eradication of poverty, health facilitation, etc.

President of China Xi Jinping explained during the Boao Forum in 2015 that: "The 'Belt and Road' initiative is not meant as rhetoric. It represents real work that could be seen and felt to bring real benefits to countries in the region" (van Noort, 2022, p.43).

Progress of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in South Asia

Figure 1 The corridors of BRI in South Asia

COMPONENTS OF BRI IN SOUTH ASIA



China has introduced the Maritime Silk Road (MRI) in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives through the BRI. For Pakistan, it has introduced the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which includes the deep-water Gwadar Port and a free trade zone. Nepal is the part of special initiative of BRI known as Trans-Himalayan Multidimensional Connectivity Network.

Due to the security challenges and geographical location Afghanistan its position in BRI is still unclear; it is indirectly included in CPEC as well as China-Central Asia –West Asia Economic Corridor (CCAWECC). Meanwhile, India is the part of Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar-Economic Corridor (BCIM-EC) along with Bangladesh. Bhutan is not the part of BRI due to its land dispute with China in Doklam Plateau. However, as the negotiation between Bhutan and China is progressing, the Bhutanese government is giving the BRI some thought.

1. Afghanistan

Afghanistan was officially included in China's BRI in 2016 when both countries signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). With this MoU, in 2018 the construction of an air corridor connecting China to Afghanistan through Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan was initiated (Krishnan & Johny, 2022, p.108). The government then was eager to resume the Aynak Mine project that was halted due to chaos in Afghanistan in 2013-2014. However, as the Taliban government took control of Afghanistan in 2021, they introduced their policies. The new Government has signed the Amu Darya project the same year with Chinese company, Central Asia Petroleum and Gas Co. (CAPIEC) for the extraction of oil (Krishnan & Johny, 2022).

To extend the further corridor in May 2023, the Fifth China-Afghanistan-Pakistan Foreign Ministers' Dialogue was held where it was proposed to extend the CPEC to Afghanistan for further strengthening of the relations and to improve cross-border trade to enhance the economic system of the countries (Ministry of Foreign Affairs Republic of China, n.d.).

China also showed its involvement through cultural diplomacy in Afghanistan. In the war-ridden state that is already threatened by foreign invaders, China is successfully promoting its culture through setting up of Chinese language institute at the Kabul University (Mandarin, 2024). China also helped the locals through its aid when the country was facing crisis situation.

2. Bangladesh

Bangladesh joined the BRI program in 2015 through a partnership in one of the corridor BCIM-EC (Jain, 2017, p.124). With this corridor, China introduced the following projects in Bangladesh i.e. \$3.3 billion Padma Bridge, \$1.9 billion Pigeon Power Plant, \$1.32 billion power grid development, and \$1 billion digitalization project (National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) People's Republic of China, n.d.)

President Xi Jinping during his visit to Bangladesh in 2016 made negotiations for a \$25 billion soft loan (Jain, 2017, p.125). In 2016, China expressed interest in constructing the Padma Bridge, which crosses the Padma River. Although China Major Bridge Engineering Company completed the \$1.12 billion project in 2014. The project was, however, disrupted

by accusations of corruption made by a Canadian corporation and the World Bank. It was to increase Bangladesh's GDP growth by 1.2% (F. Copper, 2016, p.81).

China also helped Bangladesh with its energy and technical sector. In Bangladesh, the energy sector saw significant investment in 2018 and 2019, with \$407 million going towards coal-fired power plants (Hossain, 2022, p.330). One 1,300 MW coal-fired power station in Patuakhali and Chittagong has received funding from China. Furthermore, Cox's Bazar is the third plant project (Hossain, 2022). Approximately 3000 officials and technical staff members in Bangladesh received brief training under the China-aid framework between 2013 and 2019 (Hossain, 2022, p.331).

China also expressed a desire to increase investment in Chittagong Seaport according to Bangladesh's foreign minister Dipu Moni, as China intended to use the seaport as an outlet for its southern province of Yunnan. This would enable the harbor to accommodate 3 million containers and 1 million tons of cargo each year (F. Copper, 2016, p.80). With this investment Bangladesh also become the part of MRI. The government of Beijing also started to develop a railway that would run via Myanmar from Yunnan Province to Chittagong. The sale was completed in October. The Chittagong seaport is significant for the Bangladeshi government as it is an important center for numerous nations, including China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Bhutan. China also intended to work on Sonadia, a small island in the Bay of Bengal, after Chittagong. Bangladesh, though, doesn't seem to be very concerned about it (F. Copper, 2016, p.81). However, it is also became part of BRI projects as China envisaged building a deep seaport on Sonadia.

China also set up the Chinese language learning institution at the North South University, the University of Dhaka in Bangladesh (Mandarin, 2024). Additionally, also provides scholarships and exchange programs for Bangladesh's students. It has donated \$160,000 to educational initiatives and announced 100 scholarships in 2015 which is increasing with time (Jain, 2017, p.126).

3. Maldives

China and the Maldives also signed a MRI agreement through the initiative of BRI in 2014. Projects, notably the Male Hulhule Bridge, were erected in the Maldives because of the Silk Road. China contributed \$16 million to Maldives' development projects in 2014 including megaprojects, like as a bridge connecting Male to another island (F. Copper, 2016, p.83). Expansion of Velana International Airport (VIA) and relocation of commercial port to Thilafushi was also announced to support economic development of the Maldives.

On September 2019, five agreements were signed between the governments that include Mutual visa exemption, which allows Maldivians to travel to China on a 30-day with no visa required, an Economic and Technical Cooperation Agreement on Grant Aid, which provides US\$63 million for infrastructure in the

Maldives, and a Letter of Exchange on the Feasibility Study of Management and Maintenance of Friendship Bridge of China-Maldives (Ministry of Foreign Affairs Republic of China, n.d.). A Supplementary Contract to the Implementation Contract for China Aided Micro-Grid Sea-water Desalination Project in the Maldives, and an agreement to extend the services of a specialist Ophthalmic Center in the Maldives were also signed.

China was also interested in the fishery sector in the Maldives. According to former Chinese Ambassador Wang Fukang, the Maldives have been invited to participate in training programs for the development of the fishing and agricultural sectors. China has also undertaken small-scale development and cooperation projects with the Maldives (Jain, 2017, p.107). China also assists Maldives in its infrastructure development by giving loans for the construction of buildings, residences, and other structures.

Apart from economic, infrastructural, and diplomatic engagement, China has strengthened its ties with the Maldives through cultural and educational diplomacy. It has set up a Chinese Language Center in Villa College of Maldives that was inaugurated in 2022 (Embassy of People's Republic of China in the Republic of Maldives, n.d.). The country also arranged different programs in this context, such as the Chinese Embassy donated Chinese history and cultural books to the China-Maldivian Cultural Association (CMCA) and Maldives China Trade & Cultural Organization (MCTCO) in 2022 (Embassy of People's Republic of China in the Republic of Maldives, n.d.).

4. Nepal

Nepal joined the BRI in 2017, followed by this; in 2018 Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli of Nepal paid an official visit to China where he signed the agreement for the construction of cross border railway from Jilong to Kathmandu (Minwang, 2020, p.305). The visit played a significant role in Sino-Nepal relations as China signed a Transit Trade Agreement with Nepal allowing Nepal to use four Chinese ports for trading with other countries (Minwang, 2020). Wang Yi, the foreign minister and state counselor of China, traveled to Nepal for the announcement of BRI projects in Nepal in 2019 (Pandey & Dwivedi, 2021, p. 86). The Khatmandu Kerung railway, the Madan Bhandari University, the Galchi-Rasuwegadhi Kerung 400KB transmission line, the 762 MW Tamor Hydropower project, the 426 MW Fukot-Karnali Picking hydropower project, updating Rasuwagaghi highway, Pokhara International Airport, Tokha Chahare road, Kimangthan Hile road and roadway linking Dipayal with Tibet are all projects introduced by China in Nepal (Pandey & Dwivedi, 2021, p.86).

China also helps Nepal in improving its educational system through Panda pack Project where China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation in collaboration with Alibaba Philanthropy helps in fulfilling the basic necessities of primary student in Nepal. This project was operational in 2019 to encourage people to people contact (Kathmandu Post, 2023).

5. Sri Lanka

The President of China Xi Jinping visited Sri Lanka for the first time in 2014, signing over 20 agreements with the Sri Lankan government, including the MRI agreements through which Sri Lanka was also part of BRI (F. Copper, 2016, p.56). Under the umbrella of the MRI, China initiated the following projects The Colombo Port City project, Colombo Port City Project, Colombo International Container Terminals (CICT), Mattala Airport, Lotus Tower, Norochcholai coal power plant, and the construction of a road network and telecommunication (Abeyagoonasekera, 2022, pp.350-353)

The government of Sri Lanka also leased the Hambantota port's surrounding territory for 99 years to China for the construction (Abeyagoonasekera, 2022, p.350). The port is located near Sea Lines of Communication (SLOCS) connecting the Western Indian Ocean to the Eastern Indian Ocean. The port is the source of the largest FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) for the nation and it will provide 83,000 jobs to Sri Lankans (Abeyagoonasekera, 2022). In 2021-22 Sri Lankan economy face great instability where the projects of BRI were criticized for increasing debt in Sri Lanka.

6. India

Although India is also part of BRI through the BCIM-EC and India also took BCIM-EC positively but India the narrative of India changed after the CPEC launch. As the CPEC projects pass through Azad Kashmir without consultation of the Indian government, it hurts the sovereignty of India. It also opposes its indulgence due to the Asian hegemonic factor, and non-alignment towards any superpower. Due to the rising influence of China India has made its alliance with China through Brazil-Russia-India-South Africa (BRICS) alliance.

7. Pakistan

By the end of 2013, a historic deal the CPEC was concluded, which aims to build a 1,200-kilometer tunnel connecting the Kashgar, China, and Pakistan's Gwadar port (Jain, 2017, p.59). During his visit to China, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif also inked eight agreements with China. A fiber optics agreement was also signed to provide a simple network for communication. To ensure the projects are completed on time, Sharif also took the historic decision to open an exclusive China Cell in his office (Jain, 2017, p.67).

In April 2015, upon the visit of Xi Jinping China announced US\$46 billion of projects that include 50 infrastructure projects across Pakistan which also includes up gradation of Gwadar port by pledge of US\$ 11 billion (Miller, 2017, p.175). With more investments in Gwadar by developing a plan to establish Gwadar Smart Port City that was completed in 2019, Pak-China Technical and Vocational Institute completed on 30th September 2021, Gwadar Eastbay Expressway completed on 3rd June 2022 (Ministry of Foreign Affairs Republic of China, n.d.). However, many of the projects were under progress including Gwadar International

Airport, Pakistan-China Friendship Hospital, and 1.2 MGD Desalination Plant. China also planned to build new railways and roads in Pakistan (Ministry of Foreign Affairs Republic of China, n.d.). China also allocated US\$34 billion for energy projects. With this allocation of funds, China surpasses the US's pledge in Pakistan

Besides that, China also helps the government to set up the Special Economic Zones SEZs in Pakistan to boost the industrial sector of Pakistan as a part of CPEC. The SEZs are the areas that are dedicated to industrial growth by offering lenient economic and tax policies. Under CPEC 27 SEZs were envisaged to be established in different areas of Pakistan including, eight in KPK, seven in Punjab and Balochistan each, three in Sindh, and one in Gilgit Baltistan and Islamabad each (Syed, 2020, p.16). The largest SEZ was to be set up in Punjab Pind Dadan Khan Industrial City which would be spread over 10,000 acres with various industrial units for agriculture, textiles, food processing, livestock, manufacturing, and energy (Syed, 2020).

The long-term plan for CPEC was revealed in 2016. More SEZs were announced including Quaid-e-Azam Apparel Park on M2 near Sheikhpura interchange, Industrial City on M3 near Sahiwal interchange, and 225-acre Value Addition City near Faisalabad. Moreover, the construction for 820km China-Pakistan Fiber Optic Project began that estimated \$44million. That would improve telecommunication in Gilgit Baltistan (Syed, 2020). The CPEC entered its second phase in 2018 when a free-trade agreement was signed between Pakistan and China. The PM of Pakistan Imran Khan also attended the first China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai (Ministry of Foreign Affairs Republic of China, n.d.).

In Phase II of CPEC, further SEZs were planned to be set up in Multan, Bahawalpur, Rahim Yar Khan, Mianwali, Dera Ghazi Khan, and Rawalpindi. These SEZs would create more jobs for Pakistan and gain more foreign investments (Syed, 2020).

Moreover, CPEC envisioned the construction of including 1100 km motorway between Karachi and Lahore (Syed, 2020). The reconstruction and expansion of the Karakoram Highway was also planned. It was also planned to upgrade the railway sector of Pakistan. For this purpose, a low-interest loan of \$11 billion was to be provided to Pakistan (Syed, 2020).

Under CPEC Pakistan's energy crisis was also addressed as due to the energy shortage the country lost PKR 1439 billion in 2015. China Twenty-one energy projects estimated to be \$33,000 for more than 17,000 MW were set up (Khalique, Hina, & Abdullah, 2020, p.120).

Several transportation projects are also working under CPEC in Pakistan to have easy connectivity to destinations. These projects include; KKH Phase II (Havelian-Thatta), Peshawar-Karachi Motorway, Orange Line Metro Train, Hakla -D.I Khan

Motorway, Karachi-Lahore Motorway (M-9), Lahore-Islamabad Motorway (M-11), Multan-Sukkur Motorway (M-5) (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor CPEC, n.d.)

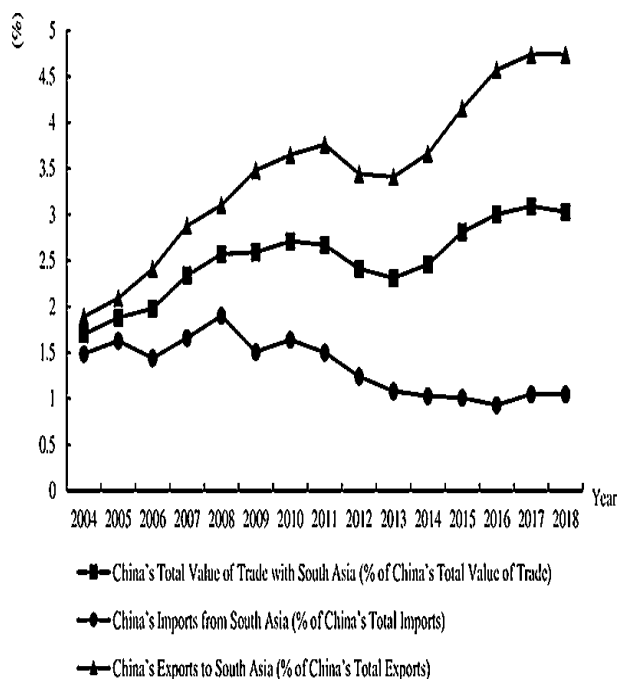
Under the umbrella of CPEC projects such as Cross Border Optical Fiber Cable (Khunjrab - Rawalpindi) was set up in July 2018 to encourage the telecom and ICT Industry in Pakistan (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor CPEC, n.d.). Several Chinese companies are also investing and setting up their businesses in Pakistan such as Huawei, Zong, ZTE, etc. In 2018 China and Pakistan jointly launched Remote Sensing Satellite-1 (PRSS-1) from China's Jiuquan Satellite Centre (Ministry of Foreign Affairs Government of Pakistan n.d.).

Besides that, many Pakistani students are also given scholarships in China for cultural exchange programs. With the efforts of China's scholarship and educational facilities, the Pakistani students in China in 2017 were almost 22,000 of which 3000 were the students of PhD (Syed & Tariq, 2020, p.337).

Impact of China's Involvement in South Asia

Through BRI China is illustrating its Soft power strategy in South Asia. The role played by leadership is remarkable in this context. The leadership and strategy of China is fascinating the entire world especially for South Asian countries that are struggling to find a way towards advancement and development.

The BRI has been also increases economic development of China. In the past decades, China has become one of the largest trading partners of South Asian countries through its economic policies. China exports machinery, military supplies, textiles, electronics, and manufacturing goods to the South Asian countries whereas it imports raw materials and agricultural goods from South Asia. Figure 2 This graph shows China's economic relation with South Asia



Source:

<https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article/figures?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0282167>

According to the World Integrated Trade Solution data, in South Asia, China is standing at the third position behind the USA and the UAE. However, for export alone, China is standing in the first position (South Asia Trade | WITS Data, n.d.). For South Asian countries it will help the countries to eradicate poverty by providing revenue and jobs. According to the Bloomberg report, the BRI will contribute to over 80% of the world's economic growth and help three billion Asians grow into the middle class by 2050 (Islam, 2019, p.13).

Many South Asian nations that have been forced into debt by Western organizations like the World Bank and IMF are now looking to China for financial assistance. In contrast to the West, China assists in infrastructure development programs. It gives the funds necessary for specific projects to be constructed in that nation. China permits them to make payments as profit or interest.

In addition, China makes contributions to the energy and technology sectors, which undoubtedly clears the path for the economic development of nations experiencing energy crises, like Pakistan, Nepal, and Afghanistan. The BRI is also a source of revenue through tourism for the Island nation Maldives. The underdeveloped nations of South Asia will undoubtedly benefit from the significant shift in power in Asia brought about by the growth of China and India's economy.

However, the BRI continues to pose a threat to the South Asian countries. China is securing its position in the South Asian waterways through MRI and CPEC in Indian Ocean, which might cause problems for the India. For India and China access to Indian Ocean is the major objective as alone India import its 80% of fuel from the Middle East and Japan through the route of Indian Ocean, where as China import 84% of its fuel resources through the strait of Malacca; waterway that connect Indian Ocean and South China Sea (Albert, 2016). China's presence is creating insecurities for India.

Besides that, the South Asian nations are facing various obstacles because of China's trade and economic policies, which are impacting regional trade. South Asian nations are now importing affordable and accessible commodities from China that promotes local businesses. Through its infrastructure initiatives, China is offering the world an alternative to Western organizations like the World Bank and the IMF.

However, many critics used the term it White Elephant policy of China. According to them, the "White Elephant" is posing a threat to the underprivileged countries that are already facing a debt crisis by the West. Critics claim that Sri Lanka's debt situation continues to be a cause for concern for developing countries like Pakistan that have heavily relied on China's help (Miller, 2017, p.193). Pakistan, which is in an alarming state of default, has external debt of

\$100 billion, with China accounting for one-third of this debt (Tewari, 2023).

Besides, the developing nations are worried Ghost Projects by China (Miller, 2017, p.193). Even the projects by China are not provided with enough transparency therefore, the South Asian Countries that are already facing corruption issues found it difficult to counter corruption in these projects.

For the cultural diplomacy, Chinese Leadership established Confucius Institutes to promote China's culture and language throughout the world. The institution aims to familiarize China's culture and language with the people of different regions. According to the report until 2015, China set up almost 137 Confucius institutes and 131 Confucius language study centers in 53 BRI countries where over 460,000 are studying to learn the Chinese language (Islam, 2019, p.18). As six South Asian countries are part of BRI therefore China drives its cultural diplomacy on South Asian countries hugely to revive its glorious past and to establish cordial relations with South Asian countries. It has set up various institutions that intend to preach Confucius studies in South Asia through which it promotes its Confucius ideology and Chinese language to the people of South Asia. The Confucius Institute was not only founded in BRI countries but also in India, which marks the success of China's leadership.

Besides, Confucius Institutes, China also provides the maximum number of scholarships for international students to visit China for education and employment purposes. It means that with academies, universities, and research on its culture, China is portraying itself as peaceful, progressive, and optimistic.

The cultural exchange programs paved the way for China to strengthen its ties, with the South Asian states having a strong projection of power. It also helps the nations to understand each other through people-to-people connections and fosters mutual understanding. Through cultural exchange, the countries learn to respect one another's ideologies as the South Asian countries welcomed the promotion of the Chinese language in their nation, whereas China is welcoming people from the South Asia. It also helps the Third World countries of South Asia to learn innovative ideas and methods from Chinese researchers.

Apart from the Chinese language, South Asian countries enjoy Chinese art, cuisine, literature, cinema, and films. It is also attracting a large audience from South Asia. Notably, China is employing strategies like those implemented by the United States during the Cold War to attract the countries.

China is employing its media to accomplish this aim. the government of China financed media agencies such as Xinhua News Agency, CCTV (China Central Television), CRI (China Radio International), Global Times, and China Daily to spread the positive narrative of China around the world through China's story (Zhou, 2023, p.113). Although China's adversaries are trying to accuse China of the BRI plan and human rights violations in Xinjiang, China's media is working hard to

suppress the accusations. For the sake of this objective, the Chinese government updated its news agency Xinhua, allowing news to be broadcast in English and making CCTV an international news channel. Around 140 countries of the world, including South Asia, are broadcasting CCTV (Jacques, 2009, p.408). As a result of this broadcasting, China is sharing its culture, and tradition with the countries that ultimately appeal to the Third World nation of South Asia. Aside from news channels, China has introduced radio broadcasts through China Radio International (CRI) in the Maldives, Bangladesh, and Nepal. The radio station airs a variety of positive news, music, and cultural programs (Kewalramani & Mehta, 2022, p.238). In Pakistan, China has also used its print media as it launched an Urdu-language paper in January 2020, supposedly to counter negative news about CPEC projects (Foreign Affairs Committee, 2022)

China's cultural diplomacy is creating more opportunities for stronger economic connection and cooperation by creating a favorable atmosphere for trade, investment, and corporate partnership. In addition to its advantages, cultural diplomacy has certain drawbacks.

Apart from economic and cultural diplomacy China has been initiating new alliances with the countries through BRI. As being portray itself as emerging global power successful the countries of the world shows their confidence on China and also urge to make alliance with it to strengthen the ties.

Conclusion

China, in the past few years displays its power through various means such as economic investment, cultural exchange, diplomatic contacts, and investments in infrastructure. It has ensured its presence in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Maldives through these means. However, the BRI of China proved to be a milestone in this context through which China boosts its geopolitical connectivity by financing and constructing infrastructural projects in the major regions of the world, including South Asia.

The investment of China not only aims to expand its economic ventures but also to reach the Indian Ocean by influencing the South Asian nations. Thus, it is using economic as well as diplomatic tact. While these projects benefit the recipient countries by increasing their economy, they lead them to be concerned about debt sustainability, national interest, and sovereignty. It also threatens the partnering nations as seen in the case of the Hambantota Port sparking fear of a debt trap not only for Sri Lanka but also for the partner countries of BRI.

Furthermore, China's BRI diplomacy extends from the economic influence to the cultural and educational exchanges that focus on portraying a positive image of the countries that help in fostering diplomatic ties. It has posed extensive cultural influence on its ally nations. However, China is still having impediments in expanding its cultural influence on countries that are

involved in unresolved border conflicts with China.

Despite the challenges of debt trap, and border dispute, China is successfully expanding its geopolitical ties with the nations. China is also willing to wield its relations with the conflicting nations through negotiations. However, this expanding influence can only be workable when China assuages the fear of debt crisis, sovereignty, and national interest among the ally nations. This strategy will encourage the conflicting nations to join hands with China and build China's trust in them.

In conclusion, China's Belt and Road Initiative in South Asia reflects its intention to be a leading global power. Although China has expanded its network of influence through economic, diplomatic, and cultural engagement, however, to prolong its influence, China has to navigate the complex web of geopolitical interests, regional rivalries, and the aspirations of the neighbors. China can only prolong its emergence in the International Arena, by balancing the dynamics by building the trust of the nations that its soft power is mutually beneficial and will play a positive role in the World.

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