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## **Q1. A critical analysis of Pakistan Foreign policy post 9/11.**

### **Pakistan's Foreign Policy in Post 9/11 Era**

#### **Abstract:**

The 9/11 terrorist attacks changed the dynamics of world politics and posed serious security challenges to many nations. In the wake of these attacks Pakistan joined the US-led "War on Terror" and found itself caught up in a quagmire, as its involvement in "War on Terror" resulted in domestic challenges in the form of terrorist attacks on its own soil by different groups. Pakistan perceives existential threat to its territorial integrity from India and this consideration has always essentially influenced its foreign policy and behavior. This paper is an attempt to look at the various challenges Pakistan faced in post 9/11 era and analyses Pakistan's foreign policy towards the US, India and other important countries of the World.

#### **I. Introduction**

Foreign policy of any nation is determined by the number of factors like security, economy, geography, ideological interest and many more. Pakistan, because of its historic past and its position in the Muslim world had to face tough choices in terms of foreign policy making. The country's foreign policy was mostly based on its security and economic interests. Pakistan's rivalry with India and the issue of Kashmir reflected heavily upon its foreign policy during the Cold War period and it still does have a profound effect on the country's foreign policy. The country after maintaining a period of neutrality during the initial phase of Cold War decided to choose its path by being the part of Baghdad Pact in 1955, a move which annoyed the Muslim world. Pakistan, however, justified this alliance by claiming this was done in order to secure protection from India.<sup>1</sup> However, this was primarily because of the country's weak military and economic position that it chose to join the pact. Moreover, it was the pressure and promise by US of military and economic support to the country that Pakistan entered the US led Capitalist bloc. By doing this the country tried to balance its equation with its nearest rival India, with whom it had fought four wars. After the creation of Pakistan on religious grounds, there were questions concerning not only the survival of Pakistan, but also regarding its ideology - whether it would be an Islamic state or a secular one. The founding father of the country, Mohammad Ali Jinnah made it clear at the very outset that Pakistan will be a secular state with

religious freedom granted to everyone regardless of their particular faith. Pakistan was a country composed principally of Muslims but essentially secular and democratic in its constitution and political institutions. He made this clear in a speech on 11 August 1947, three days before independence, when he told members of the Constituent Assembly that: 'You are free to go to your temples; you are free to go to your mosques or to any other places of worship in this State of Pakistan. You may belong to any religion or caste or creed - that has got nothing to do with the business of the State.'<sup>2</sup> There have been instances of Islamization of Pakistan's foreign policy under different regimes. Also, the Pakistan's establishment faced pressure from the lamas who wanted the state to be declared as an Islamic state in principle.<sup>3</sup> Pakistan suffered a massive jolt by the unfolding of events in 1971 when it lost its East Pakistan – present day Bangladesh, which also brought to fore the active part played by India in this process. This resulted in an even greater animosity between India and Pakistan and the two countries started looking at each other as a threat. This was aptly summed up by Bhutto, under whom Pakistan showed much vigor and vision in its foreign policy, when he made a statement in 1965 that "if India makes an atomic bomb, then we will also do so, even if we have to eat grass, an atomic bomb can only be answered by an atomic bomb."<sup>4</sup> India's close ties with US meant that any plea of help Pakistan expected from US in 1965 and 1971 war against India was not met.

This reflected that US -Pakistan relationship was directed more towards thwarting communism rather than what Pakistan expected it to be a strategic partner against any offensive.<sup>5</sup> So, marred by the severe challenges from both outside and within, Pakistan formally chalked its foreign policy which was based on its security and economic interests. In the wake of Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, Pakistan joined the US led military coalition (NATO) and fought against the Soviet led communism. In its pursuit of foreign policy goals, the country sought to improve its relationship both within the region and outside as well. Moreover, the country tried unsuccessfully to pursue its independent foreign policy and reduce its growing dependency on US. The country has maintained stronger ties with China and Saudi Arabia since long. Pakistan after a brief period of resentment from many Muslim countries, has now improved its relationship with many countries in the Gulf region, and also it has improved its ties with the countries in Central and South Asia.

### **Pakistan's Foreign Policy towards the United States:**

9/11 was a watershed moment in the annals of the modern times. It was an event which shook the world and changed the dynamics of world politics. This all happened when twin towers in America were hit by hijacked planes and the men from Al- Qaeda were said to responsible for the attack. This attack not only resulted in the death of more than 3000 people, but shook the very pride of the US and took the world by storm. What followed thereafter is what is referred to as "War on Terror"<sup>6</sup> . The US was very firm in its stand to wipe out the roots of the terrorism and to bring perpetrators of the attack to justice. In its fight against terror, the US garnered international support and thus began the never ending circle of violence, whose first victim became Afghanistan. Pakistan shared cordial relations with the US which were marred by occasional breakdowns because of the shaping of political events in Pakistan. Disappointment at the US support to India during the Sino-India war and the breakdown of democracy in Pakistan especially after Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was removed from office dented the relationship between the

two countries.<sup>7</sup> The shaping of events after 9/11 granted a new lease to the relationship between US and Pakistan. The US needed Pakistan for its strategic reasons, as the latter being the neighbor of Afghanistan could prove a potent weapon in its fight against terror. It was the time when Taliban had maintained a stronghold in Afghanistan and the US believed that Osama was not only hiding there, but was protected by Taliban. After Taliban refused to hand over Osama to America, the latter believed that the sanctuary of terrorists operating from Afghanistan is a threat to world peace and thus decided to invade Afghanistan for which it sought the help from Pakistan. But it was not an easy decision for Pakistan to join the bandwagon of “War on Terror” as the country was already grappling with the security problems and by choosing to be US ally it was inviting more trouble to its already precarious situation, as Ahmed Rashid has rightly described the relations between the two countries after 9/11 as torturous.<sup>8</sup> Pakistan has always been a country where military has dominated the politics and is always believed to call shots even if there is an elected civilian government. When 9/11 happened, Pakistan was headed by the powerful military ruler, General Pervez Musharraf, so the US had no choice but to deal with him and to seek his support. There was a growing lobby within Pakistan consisting of ulemas<sup>9</sup> who didn’t want their country to fight against their Muslim brethren. Also, Pakistan supported the Taliban regime in Afghanistan. Moreover, many people take it for a fact that Pakistan’s relations with the US are determined by what is in the interest of US, not Pakistan.<sup>10</sup> After initial phase of reluctance shown by Pakistan, it formally joined US and became one of its most important strategic allies. Pervez Musharraf justified this alliance by saying that the country had no choice but to join the alliance as the US had threatened of “bombing it into stone age” in case it declines to join US.<sup>11</sup> Thereafter the US was allowed to use the air bases in Pakistan to mount attacks against Afghanistan and also provided a loan of \$1 billion to Pakistan for its cooperation. This also meant signing of Kerry Lugar bill in 2009, which was to provide 7.5 billion dollar of aid to Pakistan over the period of five years, which was later on suspended after Bin Laden Killing.<sup>12</sup> Pakistan maintained the foreign policy of strengthening its relations with the US even though it meant the heavy losses for Pakistan in terms of human casualties.<sup>13</sup> This also resulted in a further decline in its already precarious relations with Afghanistan as the estranged Taliban directly blamed Pakistan and directed their attacks against Pakistan. In turn Pakistan continued to receive aid from America which it would channel into meeting its security and economic interests. Pakistan has been a constant recipient of US aid which is said to be over \$20 billion in 21st century. <sup>14</sup> While the military alliance grew between US and Pakistan, Pakistan was skeptical about it, as for them US was pushing the country in a deep quagmire of political turbulence and US believed that Pakistan continued its tacit support for Taliban. Kasuri, in his book also opined the same: “The US continued to accuse Pakistan of „running with the hare and hunting with the hound“ by not giving up its policy of support to the Afghan Taliban”. <sup>15</sup> Nevertheless, Pakistan couldn’t abandon its relationship with US for strategic reasons including the support on much valued Kashmir issue with India. This also meant lifting of sanctions imposed on Pakistan and also how Pakistan used this opportunity to accuse India of shying away from dialogue over Kashmir issue.<sup>16</sup> After the US invasion of Afghanistan and the claim of dismantling of terror network, it mounted a war against Iraq on the grounds that it possessed Weapons of Mass destruction (WMD). Pakistan was again caught in a lurch and despite denouncing the attack on Iraq couldn’t break the ties with the US. Kasuri, in his book says, “Although Pakistan faced immense pressure from the US, there was strong public sentiment in the country for respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq”. <sup>17</sup>The relationship of mistrust continued as was apparent when in 2008 the US carried an air strike which killed 11

paramilitary soldiers of Pakistan Army Frontier Corps which led to a backlash from Pakistan and termed it as shaking of mutual trust and cooperation. Also, in the later period when 24 Pakistani soldiers died in US led air strikes as a result of which Pakistan asked US to vacate Salala air base which the US used in its offensive against Taliban.<sup>18</sup> The incidents like these demonstrated as to how Pakistan values its relationship with the US as they knew it is in their interest despite growing strong public opinion to sever ties with US

### **Pakistan's Foreign Policy towards India:**

The incident of 9/11 worsened the already fragile security situation in South Asia where the relations between Pakistan and India have for the most part remained adversarial. Pakistan's foreign policy towards India has been primarily security driven. The two countries have over the period of time fought four wars and border skirmishes have marked their relationship for most of the times. The major bone of contention between the two is that of Kashmir issue, with both the parties claiming the land in its entirety.<sup>22</sup> The two countries have always looked at each other as potential threat and tried not to concede an edge of one over the other. This has reflected in forging of alliances, and when India successfully tested nuclear weapons in 1998, Pakistan responded by successfully test firing its own nuclear weapons and thus restored balance with its rival. The separatist movement started by the Kashmiris against what they deem as an occupation by India was supported by Pakistan for its own interests while at the same time India supported the insurgency movement in Baluchistan.<sup>23</sup> So, this challenging relationship between the two countries has been deemed as a threat to the peace in South Asia and hence the calls for ending hostilities have been growing. After the 9/11 incident, Pakistan's growing proximity with the US caused discomfort in the Indian camp and with both parties in order to please the US were accusing each other of fomenting trouble in their respective countries. India in its attempt to woo the US and to keep Pakistan away from the US coalition, tried to exploit the situation and seek Washington's help in declaring Pakistan as a terrorist state.<sup>24</sup> Pakistan, during the time when Kasuri was the Foreign Minister made it clear that any solution to Kashmir should be acceptable to the people of Kashmir and to the Governments of both Pakistan and India.<sup>25</sup> While India on the other hand has blamed Pakistan for lack of sincerity and its support for militants to wage attacks against India, which resulted in the derailment of dialogue process between the two countries.<sup>26</sup> With the effective use of backchannel diplomacy and Confidence Building Measures (CBM's), growing tensions between the two were defused to a considerable extent and in a significant move Musharraf was invited to Agra Summit in an attempt to normalize the ties-- an attempt which many regarded as a failure.<sup>27</sup> Another visit this time by Indian Prime Minister Vajpayee to Pakistan in 2004 on the side-lines of SAARC summit was a step towards bringing an end to the troubled relationship between the two countries. While India insisted on its demand of dismantling terror networks operating from Pakistan, Pakistan reiterated that the root causes of this needs to be addressed-- which means resolution of lingering Kashmir issue. India has always treated Kashmir issue as a bilateral one with Pakistan and thus reduced the role of Hurrian leadership in Kashmir who claim to represent the mass aspirations. Also, the role of armed rebellion which started in 1989 was also delegitimized by India. Hence, in this scenario the negotiations between Pakistan and India over Kashmir issue have always been a subject of criticism in the two countries. Pakistan's foreign policy stance over the contested Kashmir issue, though drawing flak from many quarters, has been of taking Kashmiri Hurriyat leadership on board before entering into any negotiations. Although Kashmir issue was side-lined by Pakistan on numerous instances, but they have constantly reiterated the utmost importance of Kashmir

issue by emphasizing that Kashmir runs into the blood of most of the Pakistani's. 28 The two countries realizing the importance of peaceful relations with each other continued the dialogue and in General Musharraf visited India in 2005 and was pretty optimistic with the outcome of the meeting, especially with the issuance of Joint Statement with India. In another significant development bus service across the LOC in 2005 heralded a path breaking development which was the result of the negotiations and paved the way for further peace building. Although Kashmir issue occupied the central stage when it came to negotiations, there were other host of issues like water sharing issue which was deemed as major threat to peace, besides other issues related to Sachedi and Sir Creek.<sup>29</sup> Despite facing immense hurdles, Pakistan and India carried on dialogue process with occasional breaks to resolve all issues. Notwithstanding the cynical voices opposed to the dialogue process, it needs to be carried forward. After the change of guard in both the countries no major development in solving these issues has been reached, apart from the famous Four Point Formula by Musharraf which did not have many takers. Despite the repeated attempts to stall the dialogue by some elements, the two countries have continued negotiations. In order to boost the respective economies, Pakistan Cabinet approved the MFN (Most Favored Nation) status to India in 2012, which would boost the bilateral trade to US \$6 billion by 2014- move which was criticized by Kashmiri freedom leaders and the people within Pakistan.<sup>30</sup> Now that India is headed by the fire brand leader Narendra Modi, many people believe that Pakistan will find it tough to deal with him and his approach on Kashmir and other issues will be different from that of the Congress Party. Some analysts believe that restoration of democracy in Pakistan, has made things bit easier and the growing friendship and bonhomie between Nawaz Sharif and Modi is expected to throw interesting things in future relations between the two countries.

### **Pakistan's Foreign Policy towards Afghanistan:**

Ever since Afghanistan and Pakistan fought on the same side in their fight against Soviet Union, the two countries have been far from maintaining cordial relationship with each other. The two Countries sharing the same history and bound by ties of faith, culture and geographical proximity have locked horns over issues related to security and Pashtuns. In its attempt to achieve its broader foreign policy goals, Pakistan has sought to mend its ties with Afghanistan with whom it also had troubled past relations as it is being blamed for its interference in country's politics including the support from ISI to start insurgency in Afghanistan for its own interests and ambitions.<sup>31</sup> The underlying assumption for this Pakistan interference was that after the withdrawal of US forces, the US will grant leeway to India to use its influence in Afghanistan and thus will undermine the authority of Pakistan. Failing to achieve its set of objectives from Afghan War (rebuilding the Afghan state and defeating Taliban), the US and NATO forces began to withdraw from Afghanistan and the country was left in shambles with the threat of civil war looming war. The US regarded Pakistan as a corner stone for the regional peace and thus expected it to play a major role in restoring some sort of stability in the region. The earlier rationale for good relations with Afghanistan and need for "strategic depth" was that in case of war with India, the latter could give its army support and space, was later discarded by Pakistan army and officers as „meaningless“ owing to the possession of nuclear weapons.<sup>32</sup> After facing the difficult situation in the wake of 9/11 attacks, in their bid to improve relations, the two countries signed 2002 „Kabul Declaration on Good Neighborly Relations“ which was based on the policy of non-interference. This was followed by the visit of Pakistan's Foreign Minister to Afghanistan in 2003 where in Pakistan

ensured of not allowing its territory being used against any attack inside Afghanistan.<sup>33</sup> While Afghanistan accused Pakistan of interfering in its country with increasing evidence, Pakistan on the other hand expressed displeasure that the grave problems faced by the country were being overlooked. Pakistan made it clear to the Afghanistan that it favored the negotiated settlement which also includes bringing Taliban to the table. President Karzai of Afghanistan was very vocal in its approach about the involvement of Pakistan in fomenting trouble in his country, and made it clear that Afghans were not so foolish as to turn their country into a battleground because of clash of interests between India and Pakistan and at the same time also emphasized that Afghanistan did not hold any ill will against Pakistan.<sup>34</sup> Pakistan being conscious about reducing the Indian footprint in Afghanistan provided support to Karzai Government and also marking a high point when Pakistan invited Karzai to be the Guest of Honor at the Pakistan Parade Day in 2005. Further, by bolstering their economic ties from paltry US \$23 million to the tune of \$1.2 billion between them in 2005-06, Pakistan set the precedent for the importance it attaches to Afghanistan.<sup>35</sup> Giving further push to the increasing diplomatic ties with Afghanistan, Pakistan opened up its borders to accommodate the huge influx of refugees, which is the direct result of on-going war in Afghanistan, and it is being estimated that Pakistan still hosts 3 million refugees from Afghanistan. It also announced \$100 million aid to meet the challenges of reconstruction and rehabilitation in Afghanistan.

## **II. Conclusion**

Pakistan's foreign policy like any other country has been expanding its sphere of influence not only in the region, but in the world politics as well. Its foreign policy has for the most part been Indo-centric which has thus impeded its growth in relationship with other countries. Pakistan perceives existential threat to its territorial integrity from India and this consideration has always essentially influenced its foreign policy and behavior. The country's backing of non-state actors in its proxy war against India has backfired as is evident from the mounting attacks from TTP (Tehreek-e Taliban Pakistan) and other elements on its own soil. The precarious security situation in the country has posed serious challenges to its existence and the elements hell bent upon seeing Pakistan in chaos should be tamed by taking every stakeholder on board. So the need of the hour is to have better relations with the neighboring countries, more particularly with India which is in the mutual interest of both the countries. The need to initiate dialogue and negotiation for resolving the pending issues is only the best way forward. Moreover, Pakistan has excessively relied on the US that no doubt has helped the country to boost its economy and defense capability, but it has also brought miseries of unprecedented magnitude to the country and thus alienated the large section of its society, which does not augur well for any country. It is the time for Pakistan to stand up to face the mounting challenges and try to address its spiraling internal issues, rather than to remain obsessed with India. Unless and until Pakistan doesn't have a good relationship with its neighboring countries, more particularly with India and Afghanistan, the more problematic it becomes to pursue its own national interests and to bring about stability and peace in South Asia.

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## Q.2

### **China-Pakistan Economic Corridor; Prospects and Challenges:**

#### **1. Introduction:**

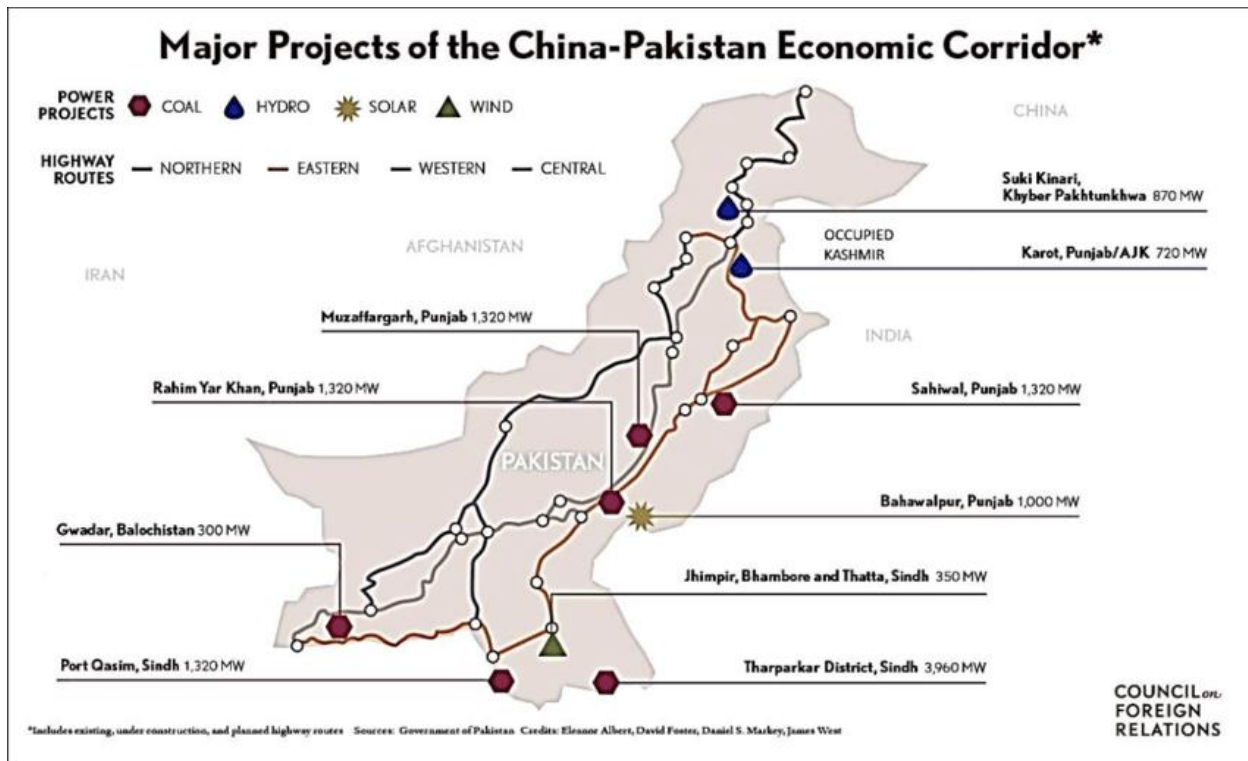
In the seventy years' history of Pakistan, the initiation and launching of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (C-PEC) is a significant economic activity that has been truly termed as a "game changer" [1]. Since the fall of Dhaka that led to the creation of Bangladesh in 1971, Pakistan has been continuously struggling to regain its position on the economic front. One after the other several internal and external conflicts and issues that surrounded Pakistan unwillingly, including, Soviet invasion in Afghanistan, Iran Iraq war, Kuwait war, Iraq war, continuous turbulence in Afghanistan for the last four decades, intermittent escalation of tension with India on Kashmir issue, nuclear tests by India and Pakistan, political instability in Pakistan due to military rule, and continuous, mostly uncontrolled, population growth, have been the major causes that did not allow the planners to frame and implement any long-term sustainable economic policy that would have helped Pakistan regain its economic status [2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7]. The One Belt One Road (OBOR) Initiative and the launching of C-PEC in 2013, when the official Mou was signed between China and Pakistan, has emerged as a strong ray of hope for Pakistan to regain its lost economic strength. The C-PEC aimed to connect western regions of China and Pakistan through integrated investments in energy, trade, and communication. The C-PEC is going to enhance trade activities through Pakistan between China and the Middle East, Africa and Central Asia. The corridor will be a strategic game-changer in the region and would certainly bring long-term opportunities for Pakistan to become a richer and stronger economy. This paper provides an overview of the present and future opportunities for economic growth of Pakistan, especially Balochistan for which comprehensive long-term planning is urgently and essentially required. The paper also identifies the focus areas for effective economic development and the available natural resources in Balochistan for a profitable business. Such businesses are recommended to be initiated as joint ventures of local people of Balochistan and Chinese companies so that the real benefit of development percolated down to the deprived communities.

#### **2. Major Areas of Current Activities in Pakistan**

At present a major portion of the funds under C-PEC are allocated to the projects in the following seven areas;

1. Construction of highways and railway tracks
2. Development of Gwadar port
3. Energy generation projects
4. Establishment of industrial zones along the C-PEC route
5. Laying down of pipelines for oil and gas transmission
6. Cyber networking and telecommunication
7. Water supply projects for industrial and municipal use (mostly in Balochistan)





### 3. C-PEC and the Local Communities in Balochistan:

The rural communities in Balochistan take pride in their traditions, culture and the natural environment. They are well aware of the natural resources, agriculture, forests, rangelands, watersheds, biodiversity and mineral deposits of the province, however, the harsh living conditions like aridity, depleting groundwater resources, periodic droughts, overgrazed and degraded rangelands, low productive livestock, and rugged terrain are the major hurdles in their advancement. The government departments, both provincial and federal, have been largely unable to mitigate desertification, deforestation, de-vegetation of rangelands and recharging of the groundwater resources. The province needs an integrated developmental approach in which all stakeholders including government departments, politicians, civil society leaders, community elders and local NGOs are to be brought on one page to take maximum advantage of C-PEC for community development. The western route of the C-PEC has excellent potential for the developmental projects. For a sustainable development harmonized with local communities, the developmental activities should involve local communities through a consultative process. It's imperative to bring the rural communities into the mainstream by transforming and empowering them in decision making. The empowerment of communities in developmental activities may initiate from project identification to implementation and from operation and maintenance to project's ownership, [17]. The rural communities are dependent on their surrounding environment and natural resources. The small-scale farming, orchards, livestock grazing, limited mining and fishing in coastal areas may improve the community's economic conditions. In some cases, these said economic activities and occupations have already been molded by the natural

climate and availability of surface and groundwater resources [18]. The sustainable management, conservation, and protection of water resources is an important factor for the physical, social and economic endurance of rural communities [18]. The impact of climate-induced changes in Balochistan are obvious but are not scientifically understood. The relevant government departments, R&D organizations, and universities may get benefit from the Chinese experience through C-PEC to address and resolve these issues. One of the major challenges is the protection and conservation of groundwater resources.

## **5. Focus Areas for Balochistan:**

Despite being resource-rich, contributing more than 40 percent to the country's energy requirement in the form of electricity, natural gas, and coal, Balochistan is still the most underdeveloped province of Pakistan. There are multiple reasons and justifications for the slow development of Balochistan and each one has counter-arguments [2, 5, 20]. But the bottom line fact remains unchanged that people of Balochistan are lagging behind in the race towards better socioeconomic conditions and lifestyle. After a long wait of more than seventy years, the C-PEC is the first ray of hope for the people of Balochistan to prosper. In order to take advantage of this unique opportunity, it is necessary to move forward without indulging into the unending discussions on the background and history of the political, geographical, tribal and social conflicts that kept Balochistan away from the mainstream of development path in the past. With this context, five major focus areas of natural resources are proposed here for initiating new projects table-7. The focus areas projects are comprised of minerals, coal deposits, and construction materials, which are widely exposed along the new trade corridor. The proved oil and gas reserves are present in many parts of the province, even oil and gas seeps at the surface are known from a long time. The renewable energy resources including solar, wind and geothermal potential are extensively present. New projects are required to initiate the development of these natural resources. The management of the water resources is the sweltering issue of the province. The climate change has deteriorated the surface and groundwater balance. The different categories of droughts have become a permanent feature in one or the other part of the province. The groundwater table is depleting at an alarming rate in most of the river basins. The development of new water resources and management techniques are needed to apply for a sustainable supply of water.

## **6. Human Resource Development:**

Education and training of indigenous human resource are integral parts of all developmental activities. Human resource in all academic disciplines including engineering, medical, computer, social, business, and natural sciences will be required for C-PEC projects in Balochistan. Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in Balochistan are to be provided special funds to develop state of the art laboratories either independently or in collaboration with Chinese Universities. In

Pakistan, the skilled labors constitute about 6% of the entire labor-force [21]. The technical and vocational trade institutions are far less to meet the present and future demands in a broader context of CPEC. In Balochistan, the situation of primary, secondary and the technical and vocational training colleges and the institution is very grim. The number of technical institutions, student's enrollment capacity and the number of pass-outs figures are very low as compared to other provinces of Pakistan. Establishment of technical and vocational institutions are required on an emergency basis to fulfill the present and future demands in diverse technical and professional trades. Chinese language institutions are also required to be established for the skilled workforce to learn the Chinese language for a better work-place understanding with their Chinese counterparts.

## **7. Opportunities for Joint Ventures in Balochistan:**

A large number of high-cost projects like Industrial Zones, Power Generation Plants, Road & Highways Construction, Special Economic Zones etc. have been part of the C-PEC and are already in progress. However, small production units and business enterprises require more attention owing to its potential to contribute effectively. It can be anticipated that with the opening of commercial transport on C-PEC, a large number of heavy-duty trucks and trawlers will be carrying goods from China to Gwadar port. After getting unloaded these trucks and trawlers will have no or little goods available to take back to China. The traveling of unloaded large vehicles shall be a huge waste of time, fuel, and transport machinery. In order to save these losses, local industrial and production units may be developed by providing facilitation to local people and their relevant Chinese counterparts. It is proposed here that the local people may be identified and matched with relevant Chinese counterparts to develop joint ventures. Most of the areas of production and development identified in this paper are those whose products are already being exported to China through Karachi Port. Hence the demand for these products in China is already established and need not any further survey in China. Very little facilitation has been provided to match the local business community with their prospective Chinese counterparts to initiate joint ventures in Balochistan. One such meeting was organized (22nd August 2016) by Ministry of Industries and Production (Islamabad) in which business community belonging to Quetta Chamber of Commerce and Industry (QCCI) were invited. The ultimate result of this meeting is yet to come out, however, it is opinionated here that the business community of QCCI has very little to contribute at least at the current stage. This is because Quetta is part of the Western Route of the C-PEC, whereas, according to latest news appearing in press and media, most of the development work on C-PEC is currently concentrated on the Eastern Route of C-PEC. Geographically, the Balochistan part of the Eastern Route starts from Shahdad Kot in Sindh, crosses Kirther Mountains towards the west and passes through towns of Karkh, Khuzdar, Basima, Nag, Panjgoor, Turbat and ends at Gwadar. An alternate route is from Khuzdar to Wadh, Bela, Winder, and then connects to Coastal Highway leading to Ormara, Pasni and ultimately Gwadar, figure 1. In either case, the

town of Khuzdar is common on both routes. Therefore, the products proposed in this paper are considered viable as all kinds of transport for C-PEC shall be passing through Khuzdar. Additionally, the identified products are being produced either along the C-PEC route in Balochistan or in its immediate vicinity.

## **8. Conclusions:**

China Pakistan Economic Corridor (C-PEC) has opened up vast opportunities for the socio-economic development of Pakistan. Pakistan needs to focus on key areas of artificial intelligence, robotics, renewable energy, agriculture, and biotechnology to develop its human resource. Trained technical human resource in these areas will be essential for a sustainable development with Chinese investment. Similarly, Balochistan being a resource-rich but highly deprived and underdeveloped province, also needs to focus on seven key areas to take maximum benefits from C-PEC induced trade and transport projects. These are minerals and coal exploration, construction materials, Oil and Gas exploration, Energy generation including renewable energy, Water, including surface water, groundwater, and seawater, and Human Resource Development. Additionally, Balochistan has the potential offer joint industrial ventures with Chinese counterparts in the production and marketing of dimension stones, mining of mineral deposits, fish farming, agriculture products that are not available in China, farming of Livestock, cement manufacturing, and Ferro-Chrome manufacturing industry.

## **9. Acknowledgment:**

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