

KINNAIRD COLLEGE FOR WOMEN, LAHORE



**ECONOMIC RISE OF CHINA: A CASE STUDY OF EMERGING
SECURITY AND ECONOMIC CHALLENGES IN THE INDO-PACIFIC
REGION (2013-2022)**



**A RESEARCH REPORT SUBMITTED TO KINNAIRD COLLEGE FOR
WOMEN IN FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE
DEGREE OF**

**BACHELORS OF HONORS
IN
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

**BY
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DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

KINNAIRD COLLEGE FOR WOMEN, LAHORE

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2019-2023

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THESIS/DISSERTATION

SEMESTER VIII

DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

KINNAIRD COLLEGE FOR WOMEN LAHORE, PAKISTAN

18TH May 2023

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RESEARCH COMPLETION CERTIFICATE

It is certified that Ms. Loujain Amer and Saleha Safdar of BS. HONS of International Relations (Session 2019-2023), Department of International Relations have carried out research work entitled 'Economic rise of China: a case study of emerging economic and security challenges in the Indo-pacific region (2013-2022)' under my supervision.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to express my special thanks and gratitude to Kinnaird College, Principal Dr. Rukhsana David, Head of Department Dr. Aiysha Safdar, and my Supervisor Dr. Qudsia Akram for her Guidance, Patience, and Support.

We are also indebted to the faculty members Dr Shireen Mushtaq and Dr Asiya Mukhtar of the Department of International Relations at Kinnaird College for women for providing us with a stimulating academic environment. Their comprehensive knowledge, stimulating lectures, and thought-provoking discussions have significantly broadened our understanding of the field and contributed to the development of my research skills.

We would like to extend our appreciation to our family for their unwavering support and belief in my abilities. Their constant encouragement, love, and understanding have been the driving force behind our perseverance throughout this journey. Their faith in our potential has been a constant source of motivation, and for that, we are eternally grateful.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ADIZ	Air Defense Identification Zone
AIIB	Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
AI	Artificial intelligence
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
AOR	Area of Responsibility
AUKUS	Alliance between Australia
UK	United Kingdom
US	United States
BRI	Belt Road Initiative
BCIM- EC	Bangladesh, China, India, and Myanmar Economic Corridor
BRICS	Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.
BLA	Baloch Liberation Army
CPEC	China-Pakistan Economic Corridor
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease of 2019
CAFTA	China-ASEAN Free Trade Area
ETIM	European Technical Information Model
FTAAP	Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific
FDI	Foreign direct investment

GDP	Gross domestic product
INS	Indian Navy Ship
IR	International Relations
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INDOPACOM	The United States Indo-Pacific Command
IOR	Indian Ocean Region
ISIS	Islamic State of Iraq and Syria
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
QSD	Quadrilateral Security Dialogue
RCEP	Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership
SLOC's	Sea Lines of Communication
SOF	Special Operations Forces
SCO	Shanghai Cooperation Organization
TPP	Trans-Pacific Partnership
UK	United Kingdom
USA	United States of America
UAVs	Unmanned aerial Vehicles
USSR	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
UCP	Unified Command Plan
USINDOPACOM	United States Indo-Pacific Command
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

ABSTRACT

This thesis examines the rise of China in the Indo-pacific region during 2013-2022 through the lens of Mahan's theory of maritime strategy. The theoretical framework is drawn from the literature review where the "Sea Power" theory of Alfred Mahan is applied on the following research. Alfred Mahan for the very first time gave the concept of "Sea Power" and Theory on "Domination at Sea." His theory helped many countries to establish their foreign policy by keeping in view the naval art. His work argues that sea power can contribute to a State with economic and military expansion. In addition to it, the research will explain the Rise of China in Indian Ocean because the Indian Ocean region is so important for China and provide China with different maritime routes which will support its economic and military expansion. China has shaped its Foreign Policy by keeping in view the maritime strategy of Mahan to survive and compete with the regional and global powers present in region. The research will explore how China is competing with global and regional powers such as India, US, Britain, and France to fulfill its economic goals by keeping in view the ocean security dynamics in Indian -Pacific. The research highlights the challenges to China in Post BRI era by explaining that China is working on economic developments to exist, compete and sustain in Indo Pacific region during the presence of regional and Global powers. Through The Indian Ocean Rim Association and The Indian Ocean Naval Symposium the prospects for peace and stability are possible. Furthermore, economic and security prospects for China in Indo-pacific region during 2013-2022 are also discussed in detail. After exploring the suitable prospects within the region, economic and security challenges for China in Indo-pacific region during 2013-2022. Lastly, Chinas rise and impacts on Indo-pacific region has discussed with possible recommendations.

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CHAPTER 1

1. Introduction

Indo-pacific region is basically accommodation to 65 percent of the total population of the world that accounts for approximately 63 percent of the (GDP) world's gross domestic product and more than 60 percent of the trade of maritime flows through the region of Indo-pacific. The future growth and economic interests of several nations, in the region of Indo-Pacific and beyond it, are properly linked with the freedom of navigation and flow of trade through the Indo-pacific region that is usually free.

Researchers have made it evident, Rise of China as a technological, economic, military and powerhouse of politics which has resulted in considerable shift in the balance of power. The tremors which are quite seen and evident, aftershocks or we can say ripples have been seen across the globe. The focus of strategic domain has shifted from Atlantic-Pacific to the Indian Ocean-Pacific. Mainly, it is motivated by following factors such as the rise of India's economic and strategic clout, China's rise, also the growing significance of Indian ocean. This basically motivated us to establish the notion of Indo-pacific in 21st century global politics.

The region of Indo-pacific has become the center of geopolitics in 21st century, whereas the external and regional powers are actively participating in competing and collaborating with each other to expand and counter others and their own mastery. This is one of the main motivating forces behind the new structure of Indo-pacific architecture of security, where China plays as both the architecture and the influencer as well. The increased control of China in the Indian ocean and its increasing military influence in Indo-pacific region has impacted with several challenges. The major challenge that is faced of the security is (SLOC's). this has created important concerns for other regional actors like Japan, India, and United States. The naval capabilities of Indian ocean states enhanced in the past five years. These States are still involved in diplomatic talks through The Indian Ocean Naval Symposium and Indian Ocean Rim Association. Furthermore, the research explains that the balance of Power in context of naval stability in Indian Ocean Region can be observed. Geographical factors of Indian ocean states forced them to invest in NAVAL-TECH.

The research study will examine the China's rise in Indian Ocean Region since 2013 through the lens of Mahan's Maritime Strategy. Mahan's Maritime Strategy is used to identify the prospects for China in Indian Ocean Region under the presence of other Global and Regional Powers such as India, US, France, and Britain. The research will further explain that what are the challenges that China is facing in Indian Ocean Region from 2013 –2022. The research will also focus on the impact of China's Rise in Indo –Pacific Region.

The theoretical framework is drawn from the literature review where the "Sea Power" theory of Alfred Mahan is applied on the following research. Alfred Mahan for the very first time gave the concept of "Sea Power" and Theory on "Domination at Sea." His theory helped many countries to establish their foreign policy by keeping in view the naval art. In 1890 and 1892 Mahan's book based on two – volume was published with the title "The Influence of Sea Power Upon History". The work argues that through sea power can contribute to a State with economic and military expansion. His book was found very influential In America and other states in the International System. According to Alfred Mahan, through economic and military expansion for national prosperity the navy can play a significant role. According to Mahan 6 points are especially important for Naval warfare such as Geographical location of State, access to the ocean through rivers and ports, physical layout of State's coastline, size of State's population, attitude towards trade and commerce and lastly the relationship of government with military.

The research will explain the China's rise in Indian Ocean because the Indian Ocean region is so important for China and provide China with different maritime routes which will support its economic and military expansion. As the Sea Theory of Mahan shows, that to become naval power geographical location and access to the ocean through rivers and ports are important so China has established different ports in the region such as Gwadar, Myanmar Sri- Lanka, and Djibouti. these ports will provide China with great sea routes to protect its trade and commerce. China has shaped its Foreign Policy by keeping in view the maritime strategy of Mahan to survive and compete with the regional and global powers present in region. The research will explore how China is competing with global and regional powers such as India, US, Britain, and France to fulfill its economic goals by keeping in view the ocean security dynamics in Indian -Pacific. The research highlights the challenges to China in Post BRI era by explaining that China is working on economic developments to exist, compete and sustain in Indian ocean in presence of regional and global

powers which is quite difficult target for China to achieve. Through The Indian Ocean Rim Association and The Indian Ocean Naval Symposium the prospects for peace and stability are possible

1.1 Significance of the study

The study will examine the significance of rise of China in Indo-pacific region. Further, the research will explore how China is competing with global and regional powers such as US, India, Britain, and France to fulfill its economic goals by keeping in view the maritime security dynamics in Indian ocean. The naval capabilities of Indian pacific region states enhanced in the past five years. In the 20th century, the Indo-pacific region has come up with one of the more significant theatres of inter-states competition and contestation, also of cooperation as well. The word, Indo-pacific has been created by the world's stake holders which basically includes United States, Japan, India, and Australia, and is the mutual combination of both, the Indian ocean, and Pacific Ocean. The theory of Mahan of Maritime Strategy has been used to explore The China's rise in Indo - Pacific region during 2013-2022.

1.2 Purpose and design of the study

1.2.1 Aims and objectives.

- To explore China's rise in Indian ocean region during 2013-2022 through the lens of Mahan's theory of maritime strategy
- To identify the security and economic prospects for China in Indian ocean region during 2013-2022
- To understand the economic and security challenges for China in Indian ocean region during 2013-2022
- To determine the implications of rise of China in Indo-pacific region during 2013-2022

1.2.2 Research questions

- How rise of China will be explored in Indo-Pacific region during 2013-2022 through the lens of Mahan's theory of maritime strategy?
- What economic and security prospects for China in Indo- Pacific region during 2013-2022 are explored?

- What are the economic and security challenges for China in Indo- Pacific region during 2013-2022?
- What are the implications of rise of China’s in Indo-pacific region during 2013-2022?

1.3 Nature of the study

The Nature of the Study is mixed-method research as it includes history exploration and description. Secondary sources are used as a method of data collection.

1.4 Literature Review

Vijay Sakhuja (Sakhuja, 2015)In his article, stated that High-Tech naval buildup can be seen in the Indian Ocean. The naval capabilities of India, Pakistan, Indonesia, Australia, Iran, and South Africa enhanced in the past five years. Despite this fact, these States are still involved in diplomatic talks through The Indian Ocean Rim Association and Indian Ocean Naval Symposium Furthermore, the article explains that the balance of Power in context of naval stability in Indian Ocean Region can be seen. It is not an easy task to maintain balance in region especially when UK and US naval bases are in Bahrain, Chinese naval basis in Gwadar, Sri Lanka, and Hambantota, while French basis in UAE and Abu Dhabi. An important feature of outside powers presence in the Indian Ocean is Joint Naval Operations against terrorism. The Indian Ocean States are forced by geographical factors to invest in Naval-TECH to protect their national interest and Sovereignty. While on the other side, Indian Ocean States should exercise control over maritime areas and States should exercise jurisdiction under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982.

Ahyousha Khan (Khan, 2018) in his article states that, according to officials of defense of India, in August 2018, international and local media hinted at the shot of short-range ballistic missiles which were 3 in number. They were shot from INS Arihant, not denying the fact here that India wasn’t capable enough to do this before. K-15 was tested in 2015 at first and then in 2018, also it weighs almost 10 tons. In reply to this, Pakistan tested it Babur missile. This all fiasco of testing short range missiles in the capacity of Indian ocean region establishes terror among the region and sparks a ray of fire in India to test its long-range missiles which would eventually result in igniting arms race in Indian ocean region. Also, India was curious to use the missiles against China, but it was dismissed by the commission. Moreover, the writer further explains that India and Pakistan have to realize that there is no end to the nuclearization of arms in the region. After increased use of

technology, the era is full of militarization and nuclearization which will dominate the region and after this, there are less chances of stability in south Asia. Both countries should realize that agreements shall be signed to not let arms race spread across the zones which is beneficial for mankind.

Cuneytyenigun (Yenigün, 2020) in his article determines that, since Meng dynasty till current time frame Chinese military strategies have continued. According to author, after BRI, Chinese military strategies shifted from land to naval oriented strategies so they can protect sea routes to bring economic sustainability. Furthermore, the article examines that the regional and global power such as India and United states presence in region will challenge China in Indian Ocean. China has become dependent on Indian ocean for its economic security and stability through gas transportation from the region after BRI. After Gwadar, China will open more military bases in region to increase its military capacities. The research will further explore the China is becoming more powerful in Indian ocean through its soft power. As regional power, India should adopt pragmatic policies in region towards China.

Taylan Ozgur Kaya (Kaya, 2017) in her article Stated that to get regional influence in Indian Ocean China and India has involved in strategic rivalry. Furthermore, the article examines that to get influence in region China has increased its economic and military ties with surrounding countries. These countries include Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Bangladesh, and Pakistan. China is promoting its BRI project through different economic corridors. These corridors include BCIM-EC and CPEC which will support China in Indian Ocean. While India is also using counter strategies in region such as 'Neighborhood First Policy' and 'Act East Policy.' Through these counter policies India is establishing its economic, military, and political ties with, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Iran, and USA. Like China India has also initiated projects in region such as The India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway and other infrastructure connectivity projects which include Kaladan Multi Modal Transit Transport Project.

Hasan ahmed (Ahmed, 2020) in his article states that the activities which China is exercising to maximize its power in Indian ocean, India has been exasperated from it and they are countering them. A tussle of tension is increased between both the states to take it on one-on-one level. Whatever practices are taking place in the ocean, India has decided to become more aggressive maritime power. Chinese influence is expanding due to the economic interests in IOR.

Furthermore, the military aspects which are linked with the project of BRI is on the threats that are perceived, and China is facing utmost vulnerabilities in the region of Indian ocean. This shows hoe China will be building bases with the intention of offensive threat. Also, increased influence of China in the area can be pointed towards the concerns that are growing for the security of its SLOC's. last but not the least, there can be some recommendations that can be suggested to both India and China for the cooperation in future.

CHAPTER 2

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK: MAHAN'S THEORY OF MARITIME STRATEGY

2.1 RISE OF CHINA

The rapid economic and political development of China over the past few decades is referred to as China's rising, which has transformed the country into a major global player. Since China began its economic reforms in the late 1970s, it has experienced sustained high levels of economic growth, driven by industrialization, urbanization, and a large and increasingly skilled workforce. Rise of China has also been accompanied by political and military developments, such as its growing global influence, assertiveness in territorial disputes, and modernization of its military capabilities.

The political and economic landscapes of the world are significantly impacted by ascent of China. China has developed into the second-largest economy in the world, a significant trading partner for many nations, and a significant participant in international organizations like the United Nations and the World Trade Organization. The future of the international system has come under scrutiny in light of China's growing influence and power, particularly in relation to the role of the United States and other superpowers. (Leng, 2022)

The rise of China has also led to concerns and tensions in the international community, particularly in relation to issues such as human rights, trade practices, and territorial disputes. Some states have voiced fears about China's growing military capabilities and its assertiveness in territorial disputes, particularly in the South China Sea. The Concept of Sea Power is so vast that it cannot be explained in one dimension such as military or economy (Silva, 2015). Sea Power is considered as a political choice influenced by geographical factors (Grygiel, 2021). According to Gray, In order to stop the enemy from using the seas and oceans for military and commercial goals, one must have sea power.

Although this view of sea power differs from its conventional and historical uses, it is still considered to be "an instrument of state policy" in the modern period. That is the reason the increasing Maritime capabilities of China are claimed by many scholars as a tool to control the world's Seas in a negative way. It is noted that China's increasing Naval and Military

Modernization had led to Strategic Competition in Indo-Pacific region which seems like a desire to counter US hegemony. China is entering into strategic competition related to naval and military modernization so strategic competition is unavoidable which can turn into a security dilemma if not addressed intime with the other stakeholders. (Gray, 1992)

Global politics and economics will be significantly impacted by the rise of China, which is a complicated and diverse issue. China's influence over the international system and the direction of world events is anticipated to grow as the country continues to develop.

Rise of state in International Relations

International relations will be significantly impacted by China's rise to major global power. China's economic and political development has transformed its role in the international system, and its increasing influence has elevated queries about the upcoming of global governance, security, and stability. Some of the key features of China's ascent in international relations include:

1. Economic power: Due to its quick economic development, China is now the second-largest economy in the world and a significant trading partner for many nations. China's economic rise has also led to increased economic interdependence with other countries, as well as competition and potential conflict over trade, investment, and intellectual property.
2. Military power: China has modernized its military capabilities in recent years, including investing in new technologies and expanding its naval capabilities. China's military rise has raised concerns among some countries, especially in connection to the East and South China Seas' territorial conflicts.
3. Diplomacy and soft power: China have been increasing its diplomatic engagement with other countries, including through initiatives including the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and Belt and Road Initiative. China has also been investing in soft power, including through cultural and educational exchanges, as a means of promoting its influence and interests abroad.
4. Global governance: China's rise has raised questions about the future of global governance, particularly in relation to institutions including the World Trade Organization and United Nations. China has called for reforms to these institutions to reflect the changing distribution of power in the world.

5. Geopolitics: With regard to the United States position as the leading global power, China's growth has caused regional and global geopolitics to change. Concerns over potential conflicts with other major countries including the United States, Japan, and India have also grown as a result of China's growing prominence.

Global governance, security, and stability are significantly impacted by the growth of China, which is a complicated and diverse issue. China's influence in influencing the future of the international system is likely to grow as it continues to develop. (Fravel, 2010)

Strategy

Strategy refers to the use of political, economic, military, and diplomatic tools to achieve a state's goals and objectives in the international system. Strategy in IR is typically concerned with the pursuit of national interests and the management of the relationships between states and also non-state actors in the international system.

In the context of IR, a state's strategy may involve a range of elements, such as:

- **Security:** A state's strategy may focus on ensuring its security in the face of potential threats, such as military conflicts or terrorism.
- **Diplomacy:** A state's strategy may involve diplomatic efforts to build alliances, negotiate agreements, or manage conflicts with other states.
- **Economics:** A state's strategy may involve economic policies designed to promote the country's economic interests, such as trade agreements or investment in key industries.
- **Soft power:** A state's strategy may involve the use of soft power, such as cultural diplomacy or public relations campaigns, to influence the behavior of other actors in the international system.
- **International institutions:** A state's strategy may involve working through international institutions such as the World Trade Organization or United Nations or to achieve its objectives.

Overall, strategy in IR involves a complex and multifaceted approach to managing a state's interests and relationships in the international system. Successful strategies require careful analysis of the global political and economic environment, also an understanding of the state's own capabilities and limitations. (Cohen, 2023)

Maritime Strategy

Currently, sea control, conventional blue water maritime ideas of sea denial, and land, sea, and air forces that work together to affect incidents in the littoral are all included in the notion of maritime strategy. Maritime Strategy is a broad concept, which does not just deal with naval strategy and naval forces. Significant elements of maritime strategy include Power projection, Sea control and Sea denial. These elements are discussed below. (Watkins, 1986)

- **Sea Denial**

The basic goal of sea denial is to stop the opponent army from using the sea against you. Such a situation arises when an enemy is prohibited from using a maritime area for its own reasons at specific times. In more passive posture Sea Denial implies where the more focused is on defense. (Kivette, 1951)

- **Sea Control**

The concept of Sea Control can be explained as a situation in which freedom of action is only used by one to fulfill their own interest for certain era and deny their opponent from using the area to fulfil their national interest.

- **Power Projection**

The concept believes that by Sea Control, Maritime forces can affect and shape the strategic setting. The concept further stated that maritime forces can also deliver combat force ashore if required. (Orbis, 2007)

Significance of Maritime Strategy

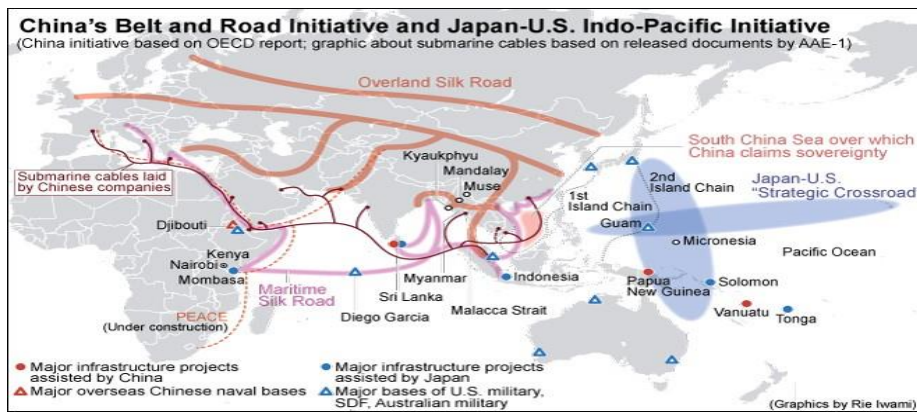
Maritime strategy is significant for several reasons, including:

- Ensuring national security: Maritime strategy helps to protect a state's national security by preventing maritime threats such as piracy, smuggling, and terrorism. It also ensures the ability to project military power in the maritime domain, which is critical for deterrence and defense.
- Protecting economic interests: Maritime strategy helps to protect a state's economic interests by ensuring access to global markets and resources, and by promoting trade and commerce in the maritime domain. It also helps to protect critical infrastructure such as ports and shipping lanes.

- Advancing geopolitical interests: Maritime strategy can be used to advance a state's geopolitical interests by building partnerships and alliances with other maritime states, and by projecting power and influence in the maritime domain.
- Mitigating environmental threats: Maritime strategy can also help to address environmental threats in the maritime domain, such as oil spills and overfishing, by promoting sustainable practices and protecting marine ecosystems.
- Enhancing soft power: Maritime strategy can be used to enhance a state's soft power, or its ability to attract and influence other actors in the international system. This can be achieved through cultural diplomacy, humanitarian assistance, and disaster relief efforts.

Overall, maritime strategy is significant because it enables states to protect and advance their interests in the complex and dynamic maritime domain. It requires a comprehensive and coordinated approach that balances a state's military, economic, diplomatic, and soft power capabilities to achieve its goals and objectives. (House, 2022)

Figure 1: China's Belt and Road Initiative



Source: (SHIMBUN, 2020)

Alfred Thayer Mahan

Alfred Thayer Mahan in different circles is viewed as a father of the maritime and sea power theory. When he got a chance to publish his writings, he published them during the time of the zenith of British power, primarily built upon the navy of the British. Mahan's writing got more popular and influential when he published his writings nearly 20 years earlier. (Ray, 2022)

Publications of Alfred Thayer Mahan

The Gulf and Inland Waters, Mahan's debut book, was a thorough description of naval activities in the Mississippi River and Gulf of Mexico during the American Civil War. Mahan's description of the naval activities during the American Civil War received accolades and turned into a standard source for naval historians.

“The Influence of Sea Power Upon History (1660-1783)” is another very well-known publication by Mahan where he claimed that naval authority was a key to a nation’s global influence. He believed that control of the sea allowed a nation to protect its trade routes, project power abroad, and expand its influence. This book had a profound impact on naval strategy and influenced the naval strategies of many states, including the United States, Germany, and Japan.

The Impact of Sea Power on the French Revolution and Empire, 1793–1812 by Mahan (1892). The influence of naval power on the French Revolution and Napoleon's Empire was emphasised by Mahan in this book. He also discussed how trade on the sea affects how conflicts turn out and the relationship between military and commercial control of the sea. He argued that the fall of Napoleon's empire was largely due to Britain's dominance in the sea, and that Britain's control of the sea had been the key to its success as a global power.

The Interest of America in Sea Power, Present and Future (1897) is another significant work by Mahan. In this book, Mahan turned his attention towards U.S. and argued that the country needs strong navy to protect its interests abroad. He believed that U.S had a great opportunity to become a global power. He tried to give realization of maritime responsibility and naval importance to the stakeholders of U.S.

In "Naval Strategy: Compared and Contrasted with the Principles and Practise of Military Operations on Land" (1911), Mahan's final significant work, he compared and contrasted land and naval warfare and maintained that naval might was essential to success in contemporary warfare. He believed that naval power could be used to control enemy’s trade, transport, troops and supplies and support military operations on land by the interlink between them. This book was one of the major books of Mahan before his death in 1914.

Since (1840–1914) Alfred Thayer Mahan has worked as a famous scholar on Naval Warfare, International Politics and Strategy. Mahan became famous for the book called The Influence of

Sea Power on the world. In contemporary times Mahan is now remarked as a good naval analyst and historian under the domain of Sea Power theory and maritime domain. Mahan was a policy analyst and Student of International Relations. within the realist tradition Mahan's thought belongs to study the relations between States. Mahan admired the concepts of Thucydides. Mahan worked more on history, International Relations, and Naval Policy. Most of his works focus on significance of Geography that shapes the Great Powers strategic choices by determining the outcome of their rivalries. Throughout the Mahan's writings Examinations of geopolitical rivalries between continental States and Sea Power appears. After the defeat of Russia, the position of Britain was not much secure completely from challenges. (Library, 2020)

Germany emerges as a Great Naval Power following Japan's victory over Russia. He wrote a book titled "**The Problem of Asia**" while keeping in mind the overall scenario pertaining to the balance of power between Asia and Europe. In this book the coalition of Sea Powers – Japan, United States, Germany, and Britain were rivals on the world stage. There are some strategic and political indicators that led Mahan to this assessment. These factors include rapidly increasing industrial production and increasing population of Germany. Therefore, Mahan makes the assumption that Germany will look for additional locations and nations to sell these goods by forging an unavoidable link in the logical chain connecting industry, markets, control [of overseas territories], and finally navy bases. Mahan wrote Naval Strategy in 1911, focusing on the transfer of power from Britain to the US. Mahan also points out that by dividing the United States from Britain, Germany could grab the chance to expand its holdings in the Western Hemisphere. (Library, 2020)

Mahan's concentration of his theory can be summarized as the concentration of the fleet of the nation to look out and destroy the fleet of the enemy in a battle of decisiveness. Mahan's theory of winning the battles that were naval, they were the fastest path to fulfil and achieve one goal of command of the sea, also it is the easiest and simplest way of achieving that objective. (Downey, 2021)

Core assumptions of Mahan

Alfred Thayer Mahan's ideas and way of thinking are more closely related to the realism tradition of researching interstate relations, which can be traced back to Thucydides. Thucydides was a subject of intense study for Alfred Thayer Mahan. Many of Mahan's ideas regarding international

politics and strategy are cornerstones of current international relations theory. The core assumptions of Mahan are discussed below. (Holmes, 2017)

- Firstly, according to Alfred Thayer Mahan there is nonexistence of supranational organization to control the International System. States had to find security on their own for survival. According to Mahan, when a state's interests are at stake, international agreements cannot replace armed weapons and cannot effectively advance peace. Mahan also didn't believe that the international system will alter anytime soon. According to Alfred Thayer Mahan, unless human nature changes, the threat of conflict cannot be completely eliminated from international relations.
- Secondly, Alfred Thayer Mahan also believed that because of the wealth generated through global trade, the major commercial states would play a significant role in world politics. Mahan asserted that the Great Powers are in charge of making choices in the international system and that hierarchy is a distinctive aspect of global politics. The Quota System in IMF (International Monetary Fund) is a clear example, which shows the unequal distribution of wealth in world and the validity of Mahan's work.
- Thirdly, Mahan was not just concerned about power balance in Europe but with the goal of equilibrium on global level. Imperial rivalries existed between Latin American and Asian superpowers, and they were linked to the distribution of power in the European and global systems. Mahan emphasised five elements: population, territory, armed forces, trade, and governments' capacity to create and implement long-term plans to mobilise their nation's resources.
- Lastly, Alfred Thayer Mahan emphasized the significance and relation between the Foreign Policy of State and its naval power. According to Mahan the Hegemon always desired expansionist foreign policy to contain their rival that became hindrance in becoming them naval power.

Mahan theory of Maritime strategy

Mahan theory of maritime strategy is named after Alfred Thayer Mahan, an American naval officer and strategist who published several influential works on naval power and international relations in the end of 19th and start of 20th centuries. Mahan's theory emphasized the importance of naval power in international relations, arguing that control of the sea was essential for a state to project

its power and protect its interests. He believed that a strong navy was necessary to secure a state's access to resources and markets, and to deter potential adversaries. Mahan also emphasized the importance of naval bases and coaling stations, which could be used to extend a state's naval reach and control important sea lanes. Mahan's theory had a significant impact on the naval policies of major powers in the end of 19th and start of 20th centuries, containing the United States, Britain, and Japan. It was influential in shaping the naval weapons competition that headed World War I, as states competed to build larger and more powerful navies. Critics of Mahan's theory have argued that it overemphasizes the importance of naval power and ignores other elements of international relations, such as diplomacy and economic policy. Some have also criticized Mahan for advocating a confrontational approach to international relations, which they argue can lead to conflict and instability. (Rath, 2005)

Despite these criticisms, the Mahan theory of maritime strategy remains an important and influential concept in international relations, particularly in discussions of naval power and the role of the maritime domain in global affairs. Mahan mainly focused on the British mastery of the oceans, a simultaneous reduction in the capacity of other European nations' navies, and Great Britain's emergence as the global political, preeminent military, and economic power. Leading American politicians, like Mahan, thought that the US should use the lessons learnt to its foreign policy, which focused on expanding US markets abroad.

In his book, he complements the work of Professor Frederick Jackson Turner, one of Mahan's contemporaries who is most remembered for his influential essay "The Significance of the Frontier in American History" from 1893. According to Turner, a professor of American history at the University of Wisconsin, westward migration across the continent of North America and the country's population expansion had eventually resulted in the "closing" of the American frontier, with significant social and economic repercussions. He observed that requests for a "vigorous foreign policy" were indications that Americans were increasingly looking outside of the continental United States to sate their thirst for fresh economic possibilities and markets. (Jamison, 2022)

Mahan was one of the leading proponents of the "vigorous foreign policy" Turner was alluding to. He suggested that the United States should look for new markets abroad and that the country's economy will eventually run out of room to accommodate the enormous volumes of industrial and

commercial goods being produced there. Mahan was particularly concerned with making sure the U.S. Government could ensure access to these new technologies. Three things were necessary to ensure such access: an American battleship navy to thwart or destroy adversarial fleets; a merchant navy that could transport American goods to new markets across the "great highway" of the high seas; and open lines of communication between the United States and its new markets. (Historian, 1898)

At first, the idea of sea power as a strategic identity and culture as dominating is still contested. The nineteenth century's fixation with sea power initially continued into the twentieth century, manifested in brief texts on sea power and various forms of supremacy. They kept arguing about the advantages and disadvantages of sea power and land power as they followed Mahan, a stream of officers and followers. In one way or another, Spykman, Corbett, and Castex all made connections demonstrating the necessity of maritime power in order to become a great power. They often met with different intellectual personalities, namely, Kennedy, Mearsheimer and Mackinder, they were among the famous ones, who basically put an emphasis on the network of major power politics, which exist in the control of the land. Secondly, the functionality of the power of sea, which is seen as a paradigm of strategic necessity, similarly damaged enough by the start of the nuclear weapons time. In military surroundings, that was said the naval forces were used as a purpose of military force which has lived its usefulness because the methods through nuclear power were exchanged with the forces that were conventional forces. The debate was neutrally resolved by a mix of sea power with nuclear deterrence and significantly, conventional power relevance continued. In their writings, researchers Thompson and Modelski emphasized the close connection between sea power and standing as a great power. It was an unintended form of the cultural hegemony of power of the sea that other governments deliberately emulated whenever they saw an opportunity because all the powers that were dominating the world attached their status to the strength of their warships. This emulation phenomenon highlights the emergence of sea power as the regarded dominant strategic paradigm. (Nohara, 2017)

CHAPTER 3

ECONOMIC AND SECURITY POLICY OF CHINA TOWARDS INDO-PACIFIC REGION (2013-2022)

Geography of the Indo-pacific region

China's emergence as a major global power has essential implications for the security and economic landscape of the Indo-Pacific region. While China has the potential to bring economic benefits to the region through initiatives such as the BRI, its assertive behavior and military buildup have raised concerns among its neighbors. The key to managing these challenges will be through diplomacy, cooperation, and a commitment to the peaceful resolution of disputes. (Brown, 2017)

The Indo-Pacific region is a vast area that spans from the eastern coast of Africa to the western coast of the Americas, encompassing the Indian Ocean, the western and central Pacific Ocean, and the seas connecting them. It is a region of great geopolitical, economic, and strategic importance, as it is home to some of the world's most populous and fastest-growing economies.

Moreover, the region includes an ethnic range of countries, including Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam. Moreover, each of these countries has its unique culture, history, and geopolitical priorities, and the relationships between them are complex and multifaceted.

In terms of the landscapes of the Indo-Pacific region, the Indo-Pacific region is characterized by a vast array of landscapes. It includes a range from tropical rainforests to arid deserts, from rugged mountain ranges to vast coastal plains. Moreover, it is home to a rich variety of flora and fauna, including numerous endangered species which are rare around the world.

The hidden reality of this region is that the Indo-Pacific region is also prone to natural disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, and typhoons, which can cause significant human and economic losses. The strategic importance of the region is highlighted by the visibility of a number of military bases and naval facilities.

Geographical significance

The location of Indo-Pacific landscape is of immense geographical significance due to its enormous size, diverse landscapes, and idealistic location. However, China is one of the largest beneficiaries of these significant elements within the Indo-Pacific region Brown, K. (2017).

Here are some of the key geographical factors that increase the significance of the Indo-Pacific region:

- Maritime Trade Routes: it is no doubt that the Indo-Pacific region is home town to some of the world's renowned trade routes via sea. It includes strait of Malacca, the South China Sea, and the Indian Ocean. These waterways are sometimes complex for the movement of goods and resources between Europe, Asia and the Middle East.
- Natural Resources: The area of Indo-pacific is enriched with natural resources. These natural blessings include gas, fisheries, oil, and mineral reserves. Countries in the region rely on these resources for their economic development, making them a significant factor in regional geopolitics.
- Ecological Diversity: The region of Indo-pacific is, undoubtedly, a core of huge array of ecosystems, including coral reefs, mangroves, and rainforests. These ecosystems support and make up a rich variety of plant species and animal kingdoms. They provide necessary habitats and services such as carbon sequestration, water filtration, and storm protection.
- Strategic Location: The region of Indo-Pacific is strategically located between the Pacific and Indian Oceans. This location is making it a critical hub for global trade and travel especially for China. The region also serves as a gateway between Asia and the Middle East, making it a key player in global geopolitics.
- Vulnerability to Natural Disasters: Much safer on the whole, some countries and regions of Indo-pacific are still quite vulnerable to natural occurrences for example earthquakes, tsunamis, and typhoons, which can cause significant human and economic losses. The risk of these disasters highlights the significance of building resilience and disaster preparedness in the region. Undoubtedly, China has made some awe-inspiring initiatives for these disasters that have inspired its rivals as well Kim, J., & Raswant, A. (2022). However, to sum up the Indo-Pacific region is

significant due to its strategic and idealistic location, abundant natural resources, diverse ecosystems, and vulnerability to natural disasters.

Geo-strategic significance

The region of Indo-Pacific including China is of immense geo-strategic importance due to its unique location at the intersection of the Indian and Pacific Oceans, and its growing economic and military importance Brown, K. (2017). Here are some of the main geo-strategic factors that make the Indo-Pacific region important.

- The Economic Powerhouses: The location at which this region is present is the center point of some of the world's rapid growing economies, including Japan, South Korea, India, China and Southeast Asian nations. These economies are increasingly interconnected, with trade and investment links growing stronger each passing year.

- Maritime Security: The region of Indo-Pacific is a bit complex to maintain global sea related security, with vital shipping lanes passing through the region. The region is also home to contested territorial claims, including in the South China Sea, which has led to tensions between countries in the region.

- Military Occupancy: The region Indo-Pacific hosts a number of important military bases, including the top rated ones like China, Japan, the united states and Australia. These bases serve to project military dominance and influence in the region. However, due to some Chinese military bases, conflicts have been raised between China and the United States of America.

- Alliance Systems: There are several formal and informal alliance systems in the area of Indo-Pacific, including the United States-led alliances with Japan, South Korea, and Australia. China also has close relationships with several countries in the region. This include Pakistan and Cambodia. The Alliance system is basically a signal to many countries in terms of maintaining trade partnerships and security issues.

- Competition for Influence: There is growing competition for influence in the region Indo-Pacific, particularly between the China and US. This competition has led to a focus on the rapid development of projects related to infrastructure, for example ports and airports. Initiatives are being taken to increase connectivity and enhance economic ties.

To sum up, the region of Indo-Pacific is of geo-strategic significance due to its emerging economic and security importance, its vital maritime shipping lanes, its military presence, the presence of alliance systems, and the competition for influence between major powers. The region's significance can be easily envisaged to grow in the upcoming years as economic and political power shifts towards Asia.

Economic Significance

The region Indo-Pacific is of essential economic importance, with some of the world's leading economies and most important shipping lanes passing through the region. However, here are some of the key economic factors that make the location of Indo-Pacific important.

- Trade and Investment Significance: The region encompasses some of the world's leading and rapid-growing economic hubs. These countries include China, Japan, and India. These economies are increasingly integrated through trade and investment links, with significant volumes of goods and services flowing between them.

- Natural Resources: The area of Indo-Pacific is blessed with natural resources, including oil and gas reserves, minerals, and fisheries. Countries in the region rely on these resources for their economic development and export them to other parts of the world.

- Infrastructure Development: There is a growing concentration on infrastructure development in the region, including the construction of ports, airports, roads, and railways. These infrastructure projects are designed to enhance connectivity and facilitate a smooth functioning of trade and flow of investment in the Indo-Pacific region.

- Manufacturing: The region is also the center point to several major manufacturing hubs, including China, Japan, and South Korea. These countries produce a wide-ranging form of goods. It manufactures good quality products from electronics to automobiles that are exported to international markets around the world.

- Economic Integration: The location of Indo-Pacific is increasingly integrated through major trade agreements. These deals include the famous Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). These enormous agreements aim to reduce trade barriers and facilitate cross-border investment, creating new economic opportunities for countries in the Indo-pacific region. Moreover, to sum up, the Indo-Pacific region is significant

economically due to its large and growing economies, rich natural resources, focus on infrastructure development, significant manufacturing capabilities, and increasing economic integration. As economic power continues to shift towards Asia and specifically China, the region has all the potential it needs to become even more important to global trade and investment flows.

Natural resources

The Indo-Pacific region is immensely rich in natural resources, including energy resources, minerals, fisheries, and forestry. However, here are some of the key natural resources found in the region of Indo-Pacific.

- Energy Resources: The region has significant reserves of natural gas and oil, particularly in countries such as Indonesia, Malaysia, and Brunei. The area of Indo-Pacific landscape also has vast coal reserves, with China and Australia being major producers and exporters.
- Minerals: The Indo-Pacific region is rich in minerals such as copper, gold, iron, nickel, tin, and zinc. Indonesia is a major producer of nickel, while Australia is a significant producer of iron ore and gold.
- Fisheries: The landscape of the Indo-pacific region has some of the world's largest fisheries, including tuna, shrimp, and other seafood. Countries such as Japan, China, and South Korea are huge consumers of seafood, while countries such as Indonesia and Thailand are significant exporters.
- Forestry: The region has significant forestry resources, with countries such as Indonesia and Papua New Guinea being major exporters of timber and wood products in the world.
- Agricultural Land: The region has large areas of arable land and is a major producer of agricultural products such as rice, wheat, sugar, and palm oil. Countries such as Thailand, Indonesia, and Vietnam are essential exporters of agricultural products.

To conclude, the region of Indo-Pacific is rich in natural resources, including energy resources, minerals, fisheries, forestry, and agricultural land. The exploitation of these resources has added to the economic development of the Chinese region as well, with countries in the region relying on these resources for export revenue and economic growth Kim, J., & Raswant, A. (2022). However, there are also concerns about the environmental impact of resource exploitation and the necessity to ensure sustainable use of these resources in the future.

Historical significance

The domain of Indo-Pacific region has a rich and diverse history spanning thousands of years, with significant cultural, political, and economic developments that have shaped the region's current landscape. The historical significance of China is one of the most prominent areas in the current era of globalization He, B. (2018). However, here are some of the key historical events and developments in the Indo-Pacific.

- Ancient Civilizations: The region is inhabited by some of the world's earliest civilizations, including the Indus Valley Civilization in what is now India and Pakistan, and the Xia and Shang dynasties in China.

- Maritime Trade: The region has an old history of trade via sea, with significant trading routes and ports established in ancient times. Trade routes like the Silk Road and Spice Route connected the region with the Middle East and Europe.

- Colonialism: The Indo-Pacific region was once subject to colonialism by European powers such as the British, Dutch, and French. This period of colonization led to significant economic, political, and cultural changes in the region.

- World War II Era: The Indo-Pacific region was also center of attention in World War II. It witnessed significant battles and campaigns fought on its land especially in China. The war had a profound impact on the region, leading to the rise of new nations and the redrawing of political boundaries.

- Decolonization: The rise of the new nations in the region Indo-Pacific was witnessed after the infamous World War 2, with many countries gaining independence from their colonial rulers. This led to significant economic and political changes in the Indo-pacific region.

- Post-Cold War: The region was a key battleground in the Cold War, with the US and its allies facing off against the Soviet Union. The Post-Cold War era had a significant impact on the region, with the emergence of new alliances and political movements in the subcontinent.

To sum up, the Indo-Pacific region has a rich and diverse history relying upon thousands of years, with significant cultural, political, and economic developments that have shaped the region's current landscape. However, the region's history has contributed to its current strategic and

economic significance, with many of the region's current political and economic issues having deep historical roots.

Current Status

The current status of the region is defined as being dynamic and complex in nature with wide-ranging economic, political, and security grievances. Here are some of the current issues and developments in the Indo-Pacific region from the year 2013 to 2022. (He, 2018)

- Economic Integration: The region has been working towards greater economic integration through several initiatives. The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), a free trade agreement between 15 countries in the Indo-Pacific region, is a case in point here.
- Territorial Disputes: The region is renowned for several territorial fights, for example the South China Sea and the East China Sea. These disputes retain the negative energy to escalate and affect regional stability.
- Great Power Competition: The region is a site of great power competition, with the United States of America and China competing for influence and strategic advantage. This has led to tensions and competition in areas such as trade, security, and technology.
- Climate Change: As hinted earlier, the region is slightly vulnerable to the consequences of climate change. The effects can be seen with rising sea levels, extreme weather events, and natural disasters posing significant threats to the region's populations and economies.
- Pandemic Response: Like the rest of the world, covid-19 has had a serious impact on the region, with countries implementing a range of measures to contain the virus. The pandemic has also had economic and social impacts, with some countries experiencing significant economic disruption and social unrest.
- Human Rights Activities: The region has been the site of several human rights issues, including the treatment of ethnic and religious minorities in countries such as Myanmar and China.

However, to sum up, the Indo-Pacific region is currently facing a wide range of economic, political, and security challenges. The region's response to these challenges will have significant implications for the region's future stability and prosperity.

China's Foreign Policy in Indo-pacific

China's foreign policy in the Indo-Pacific is entirely designed by its will and desire to assert its influence and strategic interests in the region Brown, K. (2017). The foreign policy of China is admiring its global rivals and allies. The foreign policy of China is not only beneficial to its purposes, but they are designed in a way that attracts its foreign partners. (Medcalf, 2014)

Here are some key aspects of China's foreign policy in the Indo-Pacific:

The Belt and Road Initiative

China's renowned foreign policy project, the BRI (Belt and Road Initiative), solely aims to promote economic development and connectivity across Eurasia and beyond He, B. (2018). Many countries in the Indo-Pacific region have signed up to the initiative, which has raised concerns regarding the growing dominance of China in the Indo-pacific.

Territorial Disputes

China's dominance in the South China Sea, which is the location of several built and militarized artificial islands, has been a repetitive source of tension in the region for its neighboring countries as well. China has also been involved in territorial disputes with Japan and other countries in the East China Sea.

Military Modernization

China's military modernization program has escalated tension among other fellow countries in the Indo-pacific. The concerns are particularly with regard to its expanding navy and maritime capabilities.

Economic Coercion

Time and again, China has been suspected of using its economic influence and other's economic dependence to influence the policies of other countries. Particularly with regard to its One China Policy and its assertive land claims in the South China Sea.

Soft Power

Soft power initiatives of China, such as cultural exchanges and Confucius Institutes, has also been used to increase its influence in the region.

To conclude, China's foreign policy in the Indo-Pacific region is aimed at advancing its economic, political, and strategic importance in the region. However, its assertiveness and actions are becoming a cause of constant worry for other countries that are less powerful in the region and beyond. This is leading to a more complex and challenging regional security environment.

The Historical Timeline 2013-2022

Here is a brief timeline of the historical evolution of China's economic and security challenges and developments from 2013 to 2022:

2013: China's economy continues to grow in the year 2013, with a focus on shifting toward a more consumption-driven model. However, in the same year, China announces its Belt and Road Initiative, a famous infrastructure and economic development project aimed at promoting economic cooperation and connectivity across Asia, Europe, and Africa. Moreover, China establishes an Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ) in the East China Sea, causing tensions with Japan and other countries in the region. (Kim, 2022)

2014: In the year, China launches the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), a major development bank aimed at funding infrastructure projects in Asia. China becomes the world's leading and largest trading nation, surpassing the United States in terms of total trade volume.

2015: China's economy experiences a slowdown, with growth rates falling to their lowest level in decades. China unveils its Made in China 2025 plan. This aims to uplift and upgrade the country's manufacturing capabilities and move towards a more technology-driven economy. China continues to assert its land claims in the South China Sea. This has become a cause of tension with many countries in the region.

2016: China's economy continues to slow down, with concerns over a possible debt crisis and the need for structural reforms. China's military modernization program accelerates, with the country developing new technologies such as hypersonic missiles and aircraft carriers. China takes a more stubborn approach to foreign policy, challenging the United States on issues such as trade and security.

2017: China's economy rebounds, with growth rates picking up and consumer spending increasing. Military presence of China in the South China Sea is increasing with the country building more military facilities and deploying more troops to the region.

2018: China and the United States engage in a trade war with both countries imposing high taxes on each other's goods. China's economic growth slows down again, with concerns over debt and a potential financial crisis. China expands its global influence, with President Xi Jinping calling for greater cooperation and integration among countries.

2019: China's economy experiences further slowdowns, with the country facing challenges such as an aging population and the need for technological innovation. China continues to expand its military capabilities, with the country launching its second aircraft carrier and developing new technologies such as unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). (choo, 2023)

2020: China faces significant challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with the country experiencing a slowdown in economic growth and facing criticism over its handling of the outbreak. China's Belt and Road Initiative face setbacks, with some countries canceling or scaling back infrastructure projects due to concerns over debt and geopolitical risks. Moreover, China becomes more assertive in its foreign policy, including its land disputes in the South China Sea and its criticism of other countries over issues such as human rights and democracy.

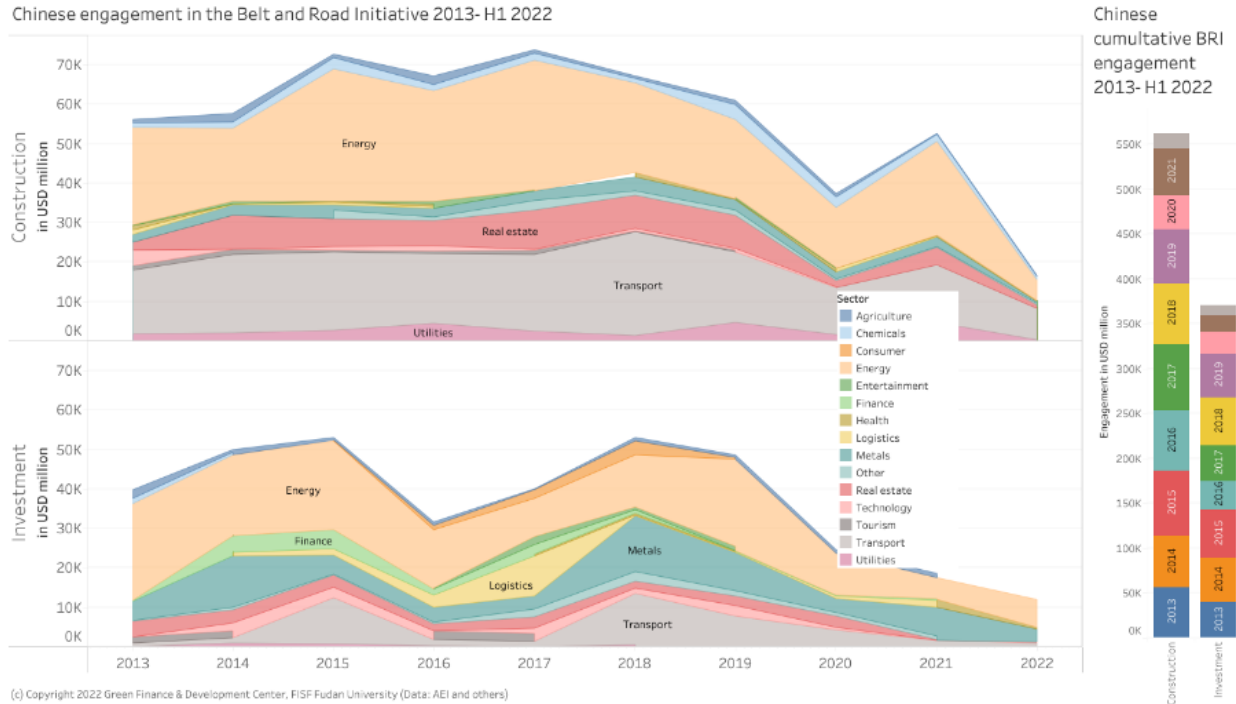
2021: China's economy experiences a rebound, with the country's GDP growth reaching a record high. China's military continues to expand its capabilities, with the country conducting more military exercises and investing in new technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) and quantum computing. China's relations with other countries remain complex, with ongoing tensions over issues such as trade, human rights, and territorial disputes.

2022: China's economic growth slows down again, with concerns over a possible debt crisis and the need for structural reforms. China's military continues to expand its capabilities, with the country investing in new technologies such as unmanned underwater vehicles (UUVs) and electromagnetic rail guns. China's relations with other countries remain complex, with ongoing tensions over issues such as trade.

Illustration based on Historical Evolution Timeline 2013-2022

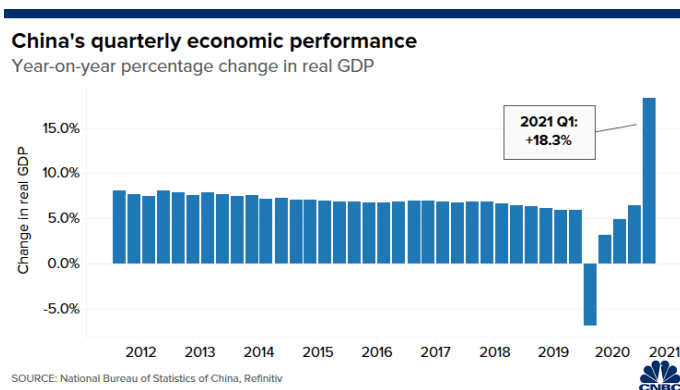
The graphical illustration of the historical evolution of China in its global project named Belt and Road Initiative is one of the greatest engagements of China.

Figure 2: Chinese engagement in the Belt and Road initiative



According to the illustration, the timeline demonstrates the cumulative BRI engagement from the year 2013 to 2022 in various sectors followed by several colors. The sectors include chemicals, agriculture, consumers, energy, health, tourism, real estate, technology, logistics, metals, entertainment, finance, tourism, and others.

Figure 3: China's quarterly economic performance (down, 2022)



Despite being the first country to embrace the disasters of Covid-19, China has made tremendous growth in battling the forefront challenges thrown by covid-19. Almost half of the country was shut down by the state to prevent the virus. This shutdown leads the economy to shrink by 6.8

percent in the first quarter of the year 2020. It was the deadliest shrink in the Chinese history of economy. But China successfully recovered from this loss in the second quarter of the year 2022.

This great comeback made China one of the prominent economies in the covid-19 year of 2020.

However, it was an open challenge for China's economic rivals as well

CHAPTER 4

CHINA'S INTEREST IN INDO-PACIFIC (2013-2022)

Interest of China in the Region of Indo-pacific has grown significantly over the last 10 years, particularly since the start of its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in 2013. The Region of Indo-pacific includes an extended area stretching from the eastern coast of Africa to the western coast of the Americas, including the Indian Ocean and the Western Pacific Ocean.

However, Interest of China in the Indo-Pacific is visible in several ways:

Economic Interests: China sees the region of Indo-Pacific as a crucial area for its economic development Medcalf, R. (2014). Through the BRI, China has invested heavily in infrastructure projects across the region, including ports, highways, and railways. These investments are intended to improve connectivity between China and its trading partners in the Region of Indo-pacific.

Strategic Interests: China's growing interest in the Indo-Pacific is also driven by its desire to expand its strategic influence in the area. China has planned to boost its military power and activity in the Indian Ocean and has formed military bases in the region, including in Djibouti and Pakistan. China's military activities in the South China Sea have also been a major point of concern for many countries in the region.

Diplomatic Interests: China has sought to increase its diplomatic engagement with nations in the region of Indo-Pacific. China has established diplomatic relations with many small island countries in the Pacific and has sought to deepen ties with nations in Southeast Asia through the foundation of the China-ASEAN Free Trade Area.

China's growing interest in the Indo-Pacific has led to concerns among some countries, particularly its global rival the United States, which sees China's activities in the region under discussion as an open challenge to its geo-strategic interests Li, M. (2020). Tensions between China and other countries in the region, particularly over land disputes in the South China Sea, have also been a major concern.

The Year 2013

China's growing interest in the region of Indo-Pacific in 2013 was primarily driven by its geo-strategic and economic interests. Moreover, in 2013, China initiated its Belt and Road Initiative

(BRI), which aimed to improve connectivity and promote economic flow between China and other countries, particularly in the region of Indo-Pacific.

One of the key objectives of the BRI was to increase China's access to new markets and stock of raw materials in the Region of Indo-pacific. China's investments in infrastructure projects. This include ports, highways, and railways which are basically intended to boost easy connectivity and facilitate trade between China and other countries in the region Medcalf, R. (2014).

Interest of China in the Indo-Pacific was also driven by its strategic interests. Moreover, the region is home to several strategically important waterways, including the South China Sea, which is a major shipping route for global trade. Having been involved in land disputes in the South China Sea, Chinese territorial expansion has become a source of tensions with other countries in the region, particularly the United States.

Military dominance is one of the key ingredients for increasing influence in any given region. Having said that, China constantly seeks to increase its military presence in the Region of Indo-pacific. This is being done through the establishment of military bases in countries such as Djibouti and Pakistan Choo, J. (2023). This has added to already growing concerns regarding concentration of power among other countries in the region about China's intentions and its growing influence. Overall, Interest of China in the Indo-Pacific in 2013 was primarily focused on expanding its geo-strategic and economic influence in area, which has since become a major point of concern for other countries in the region and beyond.

The Year 2014

In 2014, China's attentiveness in the Region of Indo-pacific continued to be driven by its geo-strategic and economic objectives, as well as its desire to enhance its diplomatic engagement with countries in the region. Economically, China continued to pay attention on its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) as a means to increase its economic presence in the Indo-Pacific. (Pan, 2014)

In November 2014, China welcomed the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in Beijing, where it proposed the establishment of the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP). The FTAAP was seen as a way to deepen economic integration between Asia-Pacific economies and reduce barriers to trade and investment. China also continued to invest in building projects in the region, including the construction of ports and other transport facilities. Moreover,

Strategically, Interest of China in the Indo-Pacific was fueled by its ongoing quarrels with neighboring states over territorial claims in the South China Sea. In 2014, China started construction on artificial islands in the disputed Spratly Islands, which raised tension among other countries in the region and led to grievances with the United States. China also continued to increase its military interests in the region, including by deploying submarines and other naval assets. Diplomatically, China sought to enhance its engagement with countries in the Region of Indo-pacific. In 2014, China became the host to Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), which was attended by leaders from 26 countries, including Russia, Iran, and India. China also established closer ties with countries like Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines.

Overall, China's game in the Indo-Pacific in 2014 was marked by its continued efforts to expand its economic and geo-strategic influence in the landscape, while also seeking to enhance its diplomatic engagement with other countries. However, China's land disputes in the South China Sea remained a major point of contention, which contributed to growing tensions in the region.

The Year 2015

In 2015, China's growing intervention in the Region of Indo-pacific continued to be accelerated by its geo-strategic and economic objectives, as well as its desire to enhance its diplomatic engagement with countries in the region. Economically, China continued to pay attention on the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) to increase its economic presence in the Indo-Pacific. In November 2015, China welcomed the China-ASEAN Expo in Nanning, where it presented the idea of establishing China-ASEAN Free Trade Area (CAFTA) by 2020. The CAFTA was envisioned to deepen economic integration between China and ASEAN countries and reduce barriers to trade and investment Medcalf, R. (2014). China also continued to develop its infrastructure projects in the region, including the construction of ports, highways, and railways. Strategically, Interest of China in the Indo-Pacific was fueled by its ongoing disputes with neighboring countries over territorial claims in the South China Sea. In 2015, tensions between China and other states in the region, especially the United States, increased as China continued to build artificial islands and assert its vague claims to the territory under dispute. China also continued to increase its military presence in the region, including by deploying advanced missile systems and conducting naval exercises Choo, J. (2023). Diplomatically, China sought to enhance its engagement with countries in the Region of Indo-pacific. In 2015, China welcomed the 60th anniversary of the Bandung

Conference, which brought together leaders from Asia and Africa to discuss issues such as economic development and regional security. China also established closer ties with countries such as Australia, New Zealand, and India. Overall, Interest of China in the Indo-Pacific in 2015 was marked by its continued efforts to expand its geostrategic, political, social, and economical influence in the region. During this process it also sought to enhance its diplomatic engagement with other countries. However, quarrels over land disputes in the South China Sea remained a major point of contention, which contributed to growing regional instability.

(State-Society Relations in China's State-Led Digitalization: Progress and Prospects, 2020)

The Year 2016

In 2016, China's strategical interest in the Region of Indo-pacific continued to be paced by its geo-strategic and economic objectives, as well as its desire to enhance its diplomatic engagement with countries in the targeted location.

Economically, China continued to pay attention on the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) as a means to increase its economic presence in the Indo-Pacific. In May 2016, China welcomed the first Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in its capital, which brought together leaders from over 100 countries to discuss the BRI and potential areas of cooperation. China also continued to invest in infrastructure projects in the region, including the construction of railways, ports, and energy pipelines.

Strategically, Interest of China in the Indo-Pacific was fueled by its ongoing disputes with neighboring countries over territorial claims in the South China Sea. In 2016, tensions between China and other countries in the region, particularly the United States, continued to increase as China deployed advanced missile systems and continued to construct artificial islands in the disputed territory. China also increased its military dominance in the region, including by conducting joint naval exercises with Russia in the South China Sea.

Diplomatically, China sought to enhance its engagement with countries in the Region of Indo-pacific. In 2016, China welcomed the G20 Hangzhou Summit, which brought together leaders from the world's major economies to discuss issues such as economic growth and sustainable development. China also established closer ties with countries such as the Philippines, which under

the new administration of President Rodrigo Duterte pursued a policy of closer cooperation with China.

Overall, Interest of China in the Indo-Pacific in 2016 was marked by its continued efforts to expand its strategic and economic assertiveness in the region, while also seeking to enhance its diplomatic engagement with other countries. However, tensions over land disputes in the South China Sea remained a major point of contention, which contributed to growing regional instability.

The Year 2017

In 2017, China's keen interest in the region Indo-Pacific continued to increase due to its strategic and economic objectives, as well as its desire to enhance its diplomatic engagement with countries in the region under discussion.

Economically, China continued to prioritize Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) as a means to increase its economic presence in the Indo-Pacific. In May 2017, China again became the host to the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation for the second time, which brought together leaders from over 100 countries to discuss the BRI and potential areas of cooperation. China also continued to put finances in infrastructure projects in the region, including the construction of ports, highways, and railways. Strategically, Interest of China in the Indo-Pacific was fueled by its ongoing disputes with neighboring countries over territorial claims in the South China Sea. In 2017, tensions between China and, particularly, the United States, continued to increase as China increased its military presence in the disputed territory and conducted joint naval exercises with Russia. China also tried to increase its dominance in the region by establishing closer ties with countries such as the Philippines and Malaysia.

Diplomatically, China sought to enhance its engagement with countries in the Region of Indo-pacific. In 2017, China welcomed the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation and the BRICS Summit in Xiamen, which brought leaders from Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa on one page to discuss issues such as economic cooperation and regional security. China also established closer ties with countries such as Indonesia and Vietnam Li, M. (2020).

Overall, China's development in the Indo-Pacific in 2017 was marked by its continued efforts to expand its geo-strategic and economic influence in the region, while also seeking to enhance its

diplomatic engagement with other countries. However, quarrels over land disputes in the South China Sea remained a major point of contention, which contributed to growing regional instability.

The Year 2018

In 2018, China's development in the Region of Indo-pacific continued to be boosted by its geo-strategic and economic objectives, as well as its desire to enhance its diplomatic engagement with countries in the territory.

Economically, China continued to pay attention on the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) as a means to increase its economic presence in the Indo-Pacific. In April 2018, China welcomed the second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in Beijing, which brought together leaders from over 100 countries to discuss the BRI and potential areas of cooperation. China also continued to invest in infrastructure projects in the region, including the construction of ports, highways, and railways Choo, J. (2023). Strategically, Interest of China in the Indo-Pacific was fueled by its ongoing disputes with neighboring countries over territorial claims in the South China Sea. In 2018, tensions between China and other countries in the region, particularly the United States, continued to increase as China increased its military presence in the disputed territory and conducted joint naval exercises with Russia. China also tried to increase its dominance in the region by establishing closer ties with countries such as the Philippines and Malaysia.

Diplomatically, China sought to enhance its engagement with countries in the region of Indo-pacific. In 2018, China welcomed the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit in Qingdao, which brought together leaders from China, Russia, and several other Central Asian countries. China also participated in various multilateral forums such as the ASEAN Regional Forum and the East Asia Summit. Overall, Interest of China in the Indo-Pacific in 2018 was marked by its continued efforts to expand its geo-strategic and economic influence in the region, while also seeking to enhance its diplomatic engagement with other countries. However, uneasiness over land disputes in the South China Sea remained a major point of contention, which contributed to growing regional instability.

The Year 2019

In 2019, interest of China in the Region of Indo-pacific continued to be driven by its geo-strategic and economic objectives, as well as its desire to enhance its diplomatic engagement with countries in the region.

Economically, China continued to promote the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) as a means to increase its economic presence in the Indo-Pacific. In April 2019, China welcomed the second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in Beijing, which brought together leaders from over 150 countries to discuss the BRI and potential areas of cooperation. China also continued to invest in infrastructure projects in the region, including the construction of ports, highways, and railways.

Strategically, Interest of China in the Indo-Pacific was fueled by its ongoing disputes with neighboring countries over territorial claims in the South China Sea. In 2019, tensions between China and other countries in the region, particularly the United States, continued to increase as China increased its military presence in the disputed territory and conducted joint naval exercises with Russia. China also tried to increase its dominance in the region by establishing closer ties with countries such as Cambodia, Laos, and Thailand.

Diplomatically, China sought to enhance its engagement with countries in the Region of Indo-pacific. In 2019, China participated in various multilateral forums such as the ASEAN Regional Forum and the East Asia Summit. China also sought to deepen its ties with Pacific Island countries by hosting a China-Pacific Island Countries Economic Development and Cooperation Forum in Samoa Pan, C. (2014).

Overall, interest of China in the Indo-Pacific in 2019 was marked by its continued efforts to expand its geo-strategic and economic influence in the region, while also seeking to enhance its diplomatic engagement with other countries. However, uneasiness over land disputes in the South China Sea remained a major point of contention, which contributed to growing regional instability.

The Year 2020

In 2020, Interest of China in the Region of Indo-pacific was shaped by a variety of factors, including its measures against COVID-19 virus, its ongoing land disputes in the South China Sea, and its efforts to expand its geo-strategic and economic influence in the region.

Economically, China continued to promote the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) as a means to increase its economic presence in the Indo-Pacific. However, the COVID-19 pandemic had a serious effect on China's economic growth in the region, with many BRI projects facing delays and cancellations.

Strategically, interest of China in the Indo-Pacific was fueled by its ongoing territorial disputes in the South China Sea. In 2020, tensions between China and other countries continued to increase as China increased its military presence in the disputed territory and conducted military exercises in the region.

Diplomatically, China sought to enhance its engagement with states in the region of Indo-pacific. In 2020, China participated in various forums like the ASEAN Regional Forum and the East Asia Summit. China also sought to deepen its ties with Pacific Island countries by hosting a virtual China-Pacific Island Countries Economic Development and Cooperation Forum.

Overall, Interest of China in the Indo-Pacific in 2020 was shaped by the COVID-19 pandemic and its ongoing land disputes in the South China Sea. While China continued to promote its geo-strategic and economic interests in the region, tensions with other countries over territorial disputes remained a major point of contention, which contributed to growing regional instability.

The Year 2021

In 2021, interest of China in the region of Indo-pacific continued to be shaped by a variety of factors, including its response to the global pandemic, its land disputes in the South China Sea, and its efforts to expand its geo-strategic and economic influence in the region. Economically, China continued to promote its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) as a means to mark its economic presence in the Indo-Pacific. However, concerns over debt sustainability and transparency related to BRI projects continued to be a source of tension with some states in the region.

Strategically, Interest of China in the Indo-Pacific was fueled by its ongoing territorial disputes in the South China Sea. In 2021, grievances between China and other states in the region, particularly the United States, continued to increase as China increased its military presence in the disputed territory and conducted military exercises in the region. Diplomatically, China sought to enhance its engagement with countries in the Region of Indo-pacific. In 2021, China participated in various multilateral forums such as the ASEAN Regional Forum and the East Asia Summit Choo, J. (2023). China also continued to deepen its ties with Pacific Island countries by providing COVID-19 vaccines and hosting a virtual China-Pacific Island Countries Economic Development and Cooperation Forum.

Overall, Interest of China in the Indo-Pacific in 2021 was shaped by a combination of economic, strategic, and diplomatic factors. While China continued to promote its geo-strategic and economic interests in the region, tensions with other countries over territorial disputes remained a major point of contention, which contributed to growing regional instability.

The Year 2022

Interest of China in the Region of Indo-pacific will likely continue to be shaped by a combination of economic, strategic, and diplomatic factors. The region is of critical importance to China's economic growth and development, with the Indo-Pacific being a major market for Chinese goods and services. China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is expected to remain a key economic tool for China's expansion in the region.

Strategically, China's territorial disputes in the South China Sea are likely to remain a major source of tension with other countries in the region, particularly the United States. The U.S. has been increasing its military presence in the Region of Indo-pacific to counter China's growing influence, which has led to a more assertive stance by China. China may continue to increase its military presence in the region and engage in more assertive behavior to defend its territorial claims Pan, C. (2014).

Diplomatically, China may continue to deepen its engagement with states in the region of Indo-pacific through various forums, such as the ASEAN Regional Forum and the East Asia Summit. China's efforts to deepen ties with Pacific Island countries may also continue, as it plans to extend its influence in the region.

Overall, Interest of China in the Region of Indo-pacific is likely to remain a major focus of its foreign policy in 2022, as it seeks to grow its geo-strategic and economic influence in the region. However, tensions with other countries over territorial disputes may lead to regional instability and increased geopolitical competition.

CHAPTER 5

CHINA IN INDO-PACIFIC: SECURITY AND ECONOMIC CHALLENGES

China's rise as a global economic and security challenge has significant implications for the security and economic landscape of the Indo-Pacific region. However, China's assertive behavior in the Indo-Pacific region, including its territorial claims in the South China Sea, its military buildup, and its efforts to expand its influence through global initiatives such as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), have raised concerns among many countries in the region.

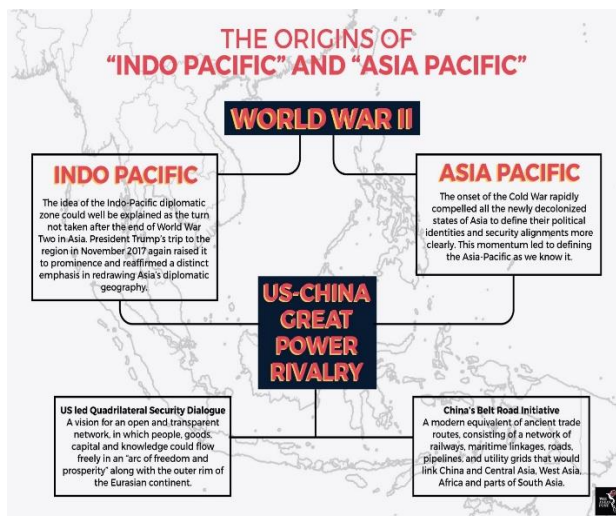
Indo-Pacific Remain as Center Point for Great Powers

Indo Pacific as a region is famous for its diverse nature in the form of Culture, social structure, economic division and most importantly geopolitics. More than 50 per cent of the world's population lives in this region. In Asia Pacific, 36 nations are living in having 3000 languages. The Asia Pacific region comprises of world's larger and strongest militaries. 5 nations in Asia Pacific are Allied with World Hegemon US. Asia Pacific is the biggest contributor to the Global Economy due to the 2 largest economies in the region. 9 out of 10 ports are in this region with the busiest sea lanes. Militarily observing the region shows that the region consists of 5 official nuclear nations and the 10 largest militaries. The increasing military activities and Superpower rivalry have become a threat to regional security.

The ocean geography of Indo –Pacific is based on long history while, the terminology of Indo –Pacific is considered as new replaced with Asia Pacific. In the middle of 19th-century Colonial Powers started withdrawing from the Asian region. The withdrawal of Colonial Powers from the region resulted in reshaping the map of Asia and provided the US with an opportunity for regional involvement. The new Power struggle started after WW2 for Global Hegemony where the World got divided into two blocs Eastern (communist-led by USSR) and the Western bloc (the capitalist bloc led by USA). After WW2 Turkey- USSR –Iran axis became so strong that to get influence in the region the axis focusses on expansion. After WW2 Turkey- USSR –Iran axis provide USSR with an opportunity to involve in geopolitics of region. By keeping in view, the entire situation including the expansion of Great Britain creates 'Pakistan' having strong religious foundations to stop the Atheist USSR from expanding against capitalist bloc. Pakistan was created buffer to protect sea lanes for securing interest of the capitalist bloc. The demarcation by Great Britain

provided USA to the command pacific which further developed the Indo-Pacific as a geopolitical concept during the Cold War. Military withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the east of Suez in 1960s provide USSR with ground to influence the Indian – Ocean through military expansion. In 1972 US Pacific command came to the counter expansion of USSR the in both Indian ocean and pacific region. The US Pacific command considered two great oceans and describe them under one strategic context of “Indo - Asia- Pacific the " since 1970s. After the cold war ended again the region became center point of attraction for Great Powers such as the USA and China.

Figure 4: RSIS Commentaries



Challenges For China in Indo Pacific

Economic Challenges

The growing economic challenges of China in the Indo-pacific region from the year 2013 to 2022 involve following disputes and threats to its global rivals as well. A few of them are discussed here.

Belt and Road Initiative

China's BRI is a massive infrastructure development plan which is aimed at boosting trade and investment in Asia, Europe, and Africa. While the initiative of Belt and Road Initiative has the potential to bring economic benefits to participating countries, it has also raised concerns about China's intentions and the impact on the environment and local communities.

Trade Imbalances

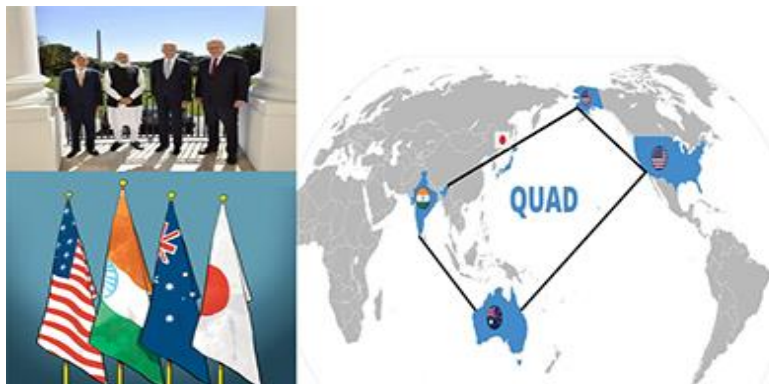
China's massive trade surplus with many countries in the region, including the United States, has led to calls for a more balanced economic relationship among the world. The United States and other countries have imposed tariffs on Chinese goods to reduce the trade deficit.

Intellectual Property Theft

China has been accused of stealing intellectual property from companies in the United States and other countries, which has had a negative impact on innovation and economic growth. The issue has been a major point of contention in trade negotiations between China and the United States. However, China has clearly denied the accusations on international platforms.

QUAD Alliance

Figure 5: QUAD Alliance



After the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, the Quad began as a loose partnership between the 4 member States including India, Japan, US, and Australia. The reason QUAD formed was to provide humanitarian aid to States affected by the tsunami. US, India, Australia, and Japan initiated the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue by keeping in view the increasing economic and security significance of the Indo-Pacific region. ((Retd), 2021)

The QUAD alliance was formalized in 2007 by Japanese prime minister Shinzo. Before the US or Japan, Australia in 2013 used the term Indo-Pacific in “Defense White Paper” for the first time. In 2016 Shinzo the Prime Minister of Japan stated that there is a need to opt ‘free and open Indo-Pacific strategy’. Former US President Donald Trump in 2016 emphasized and support the statement given by Prime Minister of Japan Shinzo. Quadrilateral alliance is established against common adversary China not just in the economic sector but in the security and strategic sector.

In 2017 QUAD resurrected by bringing up visible changing behavior towards China due its growing influence in Indo Pacific region. Both Biden and Trump administration. Consider QUAD alliance as a gateway to get more focus on Indo-Pacific region to prevent expansion of BRI and China's influence on region. The first formal summit of QUAD was held in March 2021. China claim QUAD alliance as an attempt to create an "Asian NATO."

In INDOPACOM QUAD is more likely to expand and may add those States which do not have favorable relations with China such as South Korea, Vietnam, and New Zealand. This alliance can be a great challenge for China and BRI in Indo Pacific region. US officials said they are not adjusting the more members in QUAD alliance. "Quad-plus" meetings were later held for expansion of QUAD. The more members will add in QUAD will make more problems for China to expand, compete and sustain in INDOPACOM. (Press, 2022)

Security Challenges

The security challenges of China in the Indo-pacific region from the year 2013 to 2022 involve following disputes and threats to its neighboring states as well. They are briefly discussed here.

US Indo-Pacific Command (US-INDOPACOM)

Figure 6: The U.S. INDO-Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM) area of responsibility
(Talbot, 2021)



On January, 1947 US Indo-Pacific United Command was created as unified command. This command is the largest and oldest command of the US. The Indo-Pacific region is equally important for both USA and China to maintain their Global Power status. Now, the official website of the US has changed Pacific Command into (INDOPACOM) US Indo-Pacific United Command. UCP (Unified Command Plan) has officially defined (INDOPACOM) as one of the sixth geographic combatant's plans. USINDOPACOM as the geographic command is integrating and using the US Air force, US Army, and US Navy forces under the area of USINDOPACOM to secure the national interest of the US. USINDOPACOM Area Of Responsibility (AOR) covers a huge area of the globe than any other geographic combatant command. Through the secretary of Defense, the Commander of the US Indo-Pacific Command reports to the President of the US. The Commander of the US Indo-Pacific Command is supported by different sub-unified commands such as US Forces Japan, US Marine Forces Pacific, US Forces Korea, US Army Pacific, and US Pacific Air Forces.

USINDOPACOM defends and protects US citizens, US territory and its national interests. With the help of allies, the US through USINDOPACOM is promoting cooperation, security, and peaceful cooperation responding to contingencies and fighting to win when necessary. Such strong alliance formation by US is based on military readiness and partnership presence in the region. To achieve the “Chinese Dream” policy in INDOPACOM, China is using Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) as its Grand Strategy INDOPACOM is equally important for the US as well as for China and expansion of BRI in INDOPACOM since 2013 has become threat to USINDOPACOM for fulfilling its national interest. To fulfill the national interest in INDOPACOM US claim Rise of China in region as threat to region’s peace and stability. The US claims that through USINDOPACOM US is promoting cooperation, security, and peaceful cooperation responding to contingencies and fighting to win when necessary. The USINDOPACOM alliance is based on military readiness and partnership presence in the region and to fight when necessary. Such alliance is threat to China's economic and security projects including BRI. Now, it is challenge for China that how it will expand its BRI by implementing Grand Strategy in presence of USINDOPACOM alliance. China must bring better strategies then USINDOPACOM to compete and sustain in region. (Yetman, 2019)

AUKUS



AUKUS is the security pact and alliance of strategic defense. The members of AUKUS are Australia, United Kingdom, United States of America. The main aim of AUKUS is to work collectively in the Indo Pacific Region and to make a class of nuclear-propelled submarines. Before AUKUS Australia was purchasing the diesel electric-powered submarines from France. Now, Australia have ended the contract with France which was sign in 2016. After AUKUS very first time US is going to share nuclear propulsion technology with its ally except United Kingdom. It

is considered that the reason of sharing nuclear propulsion technology with Australia is to counter presence and increasing influence of China in region. (Wintour, What is the Aukus alliance and what are its implications?, 2021)

In April 2023 it was decided between AUKUS members that Australia will at least buy three – five Virginia-class nuclear-powered submarines from US and a new class of nuclear-powered submarines will be deployed by Britain that is created with the collective effort of Australia, Britain, and USA. The main purpose of Submarine plan is to stop China in Asia Pacific. The challenge to China is not limited to submarine just but is extended to deployment of strategic bombers in Australia by US. Australia and US got mutually agreed on cooperating cyber operations, hypersonic missiles and quantum computing etc. (Hamza, 2023)

Wang Wenbin The Spokesperson of Chinese Foreign Ministry accused AUKUS of getting involve in “hegemonic practice ”and consider it as “Cold War mentality” to contain Beijing. Wang Wenbin has also warned AUKUS not to use “dangerous path.” Deployment of strategic bombers in Australia by US reminds the world of Cuban Missile crises, that is Wang Wenbin consider it as “Cold War mentality. "If the issue would not resolve timely by negotiations between AUKUS and China so Cold War scenario can be appeared once again. (Grossman, 2021)

Territorial Disputes

Territorial claims of China within the area of South China Sea, which contradict with claims by other neighboring States within Asia-Pacific, led to emerge tussle and risk of dispute. Moreover, China has also been involved in conflict with neighbor Japan over Senkaku/Diaoyu which are the Islands within Sea of East China.

Military Buildup

The truth is no more hidden about China’s military buildup. China's military modernization and expansion have raised concerns among its neighboring states about its intentions Kim, J., & Raswant, A. (2022). China has invested heavily in advanced military technologies, including anti-ship missiles, stealth fighters, and aircraft carriers, which could threaten the security of other countries in the region. These initiatives by China have no doubt caused an undefeatable impact on its global rivals.

Cyber Threats

The world is known for daily ongoing controversies between PRC and the USA on many levels economic or security levels. China has been accused of engaging in cyber espionage and stealing intellectual property from companies in America and other States. These actions by Beijing have raised concerns about the security of sensitive information and critical infrastructure.

ASEAN

From 21st Century, ASEAN negotiated with many States to settle down the issues and to promote cooperation. These countries include QUAD and AUKUS members mostly such as; Australia, South Korea, Japan, US, India, and New Zealand and other States. The main aim of talks with these States is to establish a free trade network. It is clearly shown that ASEAN States are closer to adversaries of China. It is greatest task for Beijing to cooperate with ASEAN which are already involve in conflict with PRC regarding South China Sea and share close ties with AUKUS and QUAD states. Through ASEAN States US can indirectly contain and confront China in region by providing Military and Economic Support to ASEAN States. In South China Sea conflict US is supporting ASEAN States and can be use them to destroy the emerging Power Status of China and Dream to become Superpower. (Zhang, 2023)

In the case of Security ASEAN is closer to US by considering it as Global political and strategic influencer. ASEAN States want US as deterrent for Beijing in area of South China Dispute. In the U.S. Indo-Pacific Economic Framework ASEAN States are actively participating and are promoting cooperation with US in different sectors clean energy, climate change, food security, digital economy etc. Both US and ASEAN blame China for responsible of Climate changing problems.

Figure 7: 10th ASEAN-US. SUMMIT (*Pepper, 2021*)



At 10th ASEAN –US Summit 2022 US President announced formation of USA -ASEAN project aiming for better Infrastructure Connectivity. Biden demand-driven co-development mechanism through which the US is going to aid ASEAN initiatives which will promote infrastructural betterment along with connectivity throughout the Southeast Asian through greatest amount of investment for local infrastructural development programs. More US and ASEAN came close to each other the more China will be challenged in region and become difficult to expand BRI. (ASEAN, 2022)

India

India is also using counter strategies for China in region such as 'Neighborhood First Policy' and 'Act East Policy.' Through these counter policies India is establishing its economic, military, and political ties with, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Iran, and USA. Like China India has also initiated projects in region such as The India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway and other infrastructure connectivity, Kaladan Multi Modal Transit Transport Project. China is exercising to maximize its power in region, India has been exasperated from it and they are countering them. A tussle of tension is increased between both the States to take it on one-on-one level. Whatever practices are taking place within Pacific, India now decided to be aggressive maritime power. Chinese influence is expanding due to the economic interests in IOR. Furthermore, the military aspects which are

linked with the project of BRI is taken as sort of threat to India. Well, India is part of QUAD alliance through which India can challenge BRI of China in Indo Pacific region. India is supporting US through different alliances such as QUAD. If China wants to sustain in Indo Pacific region so before negotiating with US, China must initiate diplomatic talks and developmental projects which will be beneficial for both States and bring peace in region. (Editor, 2021)

US efforts to expand its military presence for Preventing Beijing's influence upon region.

Washington is looking for strategic partners and allies in Asia Pacific which will aid America. military sites to America's political presence to increase the US military and political presence in the Pacific area.

Such joint peaceful and security agreement that US and Japan signed in San Francisco following World War II is the foundation for US military participation in the Asia-Pacific. America and Japan did sign on a second bilateral security treaty. January of 1960, in USA. The treaty's primary goal was to legally approve America's military foundation in Japanese area, both nations agreed to helpout one another. With these accords, the US slowly established its naval presence in the Asia-Pacific region, which has caused problems for both China and Russia due to the US naval presence in the Pacific. (Sohail, 2022)

According to the Pentagon, there are currently 56,000 US soldiers and other military personnel serving in Japan. Also, there are 36,000 active American soldiers placed within South Korea and about 35,221 in Germany. Along with an increasing counting of these soldiers from Russia's invasion of Ukraine, NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) has also provided them with brand-new, innovative light and heavy weapons. Moreover, the US operates around 120 military installations in Asia. Yet, intelligence reports indicate that the US own approximately 35 covert military facilities in Iraq, Syria, Pakistan, Qatar, Djibouti, Kuwait, and Nigeria. These clandestine bases all collaborate with the US Special Operations Forces, Additionally, these covert bases serve to educate Islamist militias, mostly non state operating Pacific, including ISIS, Al Qaeda, Ansarullah, ETIM, and others. The illegal exploitation of Middle Eastern oil reserves, illegal transportation of expensive and demanding stones with unique earth minerals, the facilitation of drugs, the conduct of non-official unregistered type operations, and the teaching of extremist groups mostly religious within area against Beijing are all activities of these secret military

installations. Also, North's interest in South Korea, China's attempt of capturing Taiwan present two security issues for the Asia-Pacific area now.

Other strategies are also being put into action by the US to keep China and Russia in check, including teaching Uighur, ISIS, Hizb Ut Tahrir-Al-Sham fighters of Al-Tanf facility in Syria. the emergence and deployment of international Islamist militias that support West in the north region of Afghanistan because of a recent political void, the threat posed by the Waziristan Taliban in Pakistan, who operate under (Tehrik Taliban Pakistan) umbrella, and the Balochi fighters operating within BLA umbrella. Political unrest in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, as well as covert US action, have all contributed to the training of extremist organizations in Pakistan-administrated Kashmir that are trying to control China and thwart the CPEC. Since that Japan would not be willing to make sacrifices for America that time, the USA operates these elements to make un stabilize the Indo-Pacific area. (Mathew, 2020)

Because the Japanese government do not desire to compete with Beijing for giving plus point to USA rather wants to economically outcompete China. Yet, the US will prevent Japan from leaving the conflict and will instead utilize Japan as a tool against PRC. Because China and Russia vehemently disagreed with the former Japanese prime minister's approach, he was recently slain in Japan. The US has once more coerced Japan into hosting and aiding American naval and ground forces in their conflict with PRC by using such political killing. This time, USA will hike their political presence in area. while still using military force to limit Chinese influence in the area. To avoid Chinese influence in the Asia/Indo-Pacific, the US stated on July 12 of this year that US embassies would be opening in Tonga and Kiribati.

CHAPTER 6

CHINA'S RISE AND IMPACT OF STAKEHOLDERS IN INDO-PACIFIC

50 percent of world's population lives in the Asia Pacific. 36 nations have been living there by having 3000 languages. Asia Pacific comprises of the top highly ranked and trained largest and strongest militaries. 5 nations in Indo Pacific are Allied with World Hegemon United States Of America Indo Pacific is a greatest contributor to Global Economy due to the 2 largest economies in the region. 9 out of 10 ports are in this region with the busiest sea lanes. Militarily observing the region shows that the region consists of 5 official nuclear nations and the 10 largest militaries. The increasing military activities and Superpower rivalry have become a threat to regional security. In 1972 US Pacific command came to the counter expansion of USSR the in both Indian ocean and pacific region. The US Pacific command considered two great oceans and describe them under one strategic context of "Indo - Asia- Pacific the " since 1970s. After the cold war ended again the region became center point of attraction for Core States including China and United States of America.

Rise of China Along with Implications for Regional Players in Indo-Pacific

Implications For QUAD Under Rise of China

Since, Last two decades China is acting as Emerging Superpower in context of military, technological, and economy. In short, these factors led to the existence of QUAD. Within Asia Pacific region for maintaining 'Balance of Power ' mechanism QUAD alliance was established. States in QUAD include India, Japan, US, and Australia. In September 2021 QUAD met at Summit level to diverse the Areas of Cooperation. The Spokesperson of Foreign Ministry of China stated QUAD as "Asian NATO." the Statement clearly shows the critical viewpoint of China regarding QUAD. After the statement given by China QUAD brings internal changes in QUAD in form of policy making such as how to deal with China in Indo Pacific region. Quadrilateral alliance is established against common adversary China not just in the economic sector but in the security and strategic sector also. (Manhas, 2022)

In 2017 QUAD resurrected by bringing up visible changing behavior towards China due its growing influence in Indo Pacific region. Both Biden and Trump administration consider QUAD alliance as a gateway to get more focus on Indo-Pacific region to prevent expansion of BRI along with China's influence upon region. China's Rise China in Indo Pacific region has disturbed US

because US considered it as threat to its Hegemony. That is why US join QUAD to counter China's BRI project because it is part of China's Grand Strategy to become Superpower. INDOPACOM QUAD is more likely to expand because QUAD States are not enough to prevent expansion of China in region. QUAD decided to add those States in future which share less favorable relations with Beijing including South Korea, Vietnam, and New Zealand. So, the Alliance can be strong enough to stop the increasing influence of China upon region.

Rise of China and Implications For US-INDOPACOM

To achieve the "Chinese Dream" policy in INDOPACOM, China is using Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) as its Grand Strategy. INDOPACOM is equally important for the US as well as for China and expansion of BRI in INDOPACOM since 2013 has become threat to USINDOPACOM for fulfilling its national interest. To fulfill the national interest in INDOPACOM US claim Rise of China in region as threat to region's peace and stability. The US claims that through USINDOPACOM US is promoting cooperation, security, and peaceful coexistence by replying to contingencies and fighting to get victory when required. The USINDOPACOM alliance is based on military readiness and partnership presence in the region and to fight when necessary. To make the US-INDOPACOM alliance less effective China is providing easy loan for infrastructural development in region which has now become a point of Concern for USINDOPACOM.

Rise of China and Implications For AUKUS

AUKUS is the security pact established in September 2021 as alliance of strategic defense. The members of AUKUS are Australia, UK and America. Main aim behind AUKUS is to work collectively in Asia Pacific and to make a class of nuclear-propelled submarines. China's Rise in Asia Pacific region has impacted upon Status of US as Global Hegemon so, to secure its Status and National Interest in region US form AUKUS. Strategy of US regarding Asia Pacific was introduced for containing China's BRI. as economic project is linked with China's Grand Strategy upon which their future is dependent to become Superpower.

Before AUKUS Australia was purchasing the diesel electric-powered submarines from France. Now, Australia have ended the contract with France which was sign in 2016. After AUKUS very first time US is going to share nuclear propulsion technology with its ally except United Kingdom. It is considered that the reason of sharing nuclear propulsion technology with Australia is to counter presence with increasing influence of China in region. And it was decided that Australia will buy at least 3-5 Virginia-class nuclear-powered submarines from US and will discontinue the

contract with France. Leaving 30 years old trusty partner for US not only impacted the relations of Australia with France but relations of France with US too. That's how International Relations are overall impacted by China's Rise in Indo Pacific Area.

AUKUS seems getting weaker and fracture instead of getting stronger against China in Asia Pacific. AUKUS now reach to the level of risk because the regional and extra regional actors both are getting disturb including Malaysia, Indonesia, India, and New Zealand due to the advent of inner Anglosphere core in their region. These States are aware that once the cold war is started it will cause huge destruction at regional and international level. So, they are getting disturbed by the tussle going on between AUKUS and BRI States. (Wintour, As china threat rises, can Aukus alliance recover from rancorous birth?, 2021)

So, it's a risk to the future scope of AUKUS that States are not willing to become a part of AUKUS. US interest seems shifting from European region to Asia for stopping and countering China's expansionism. Once US shift interest from Europe to Asia so the clear ground will be providing opportunity to France to be the next Regional Hegemon because Britain cannot take the place because its already member of AUKUS and involve in Indo Pacific politics to stop

Beijing from expanding in Asia Pacific. Not just France only but European Union was also less impressed by the creation of AUKUS because AUKUS was launched on the same day when European Union introduce its own Strategy for Indo-Pacific. the secretary of Korean ministry of foreign affairs Choi Jong-gun, during Visit to America's circumspect. Choi Jong-gun stated that South Korea and China are Strategic Partners and wants true partnership. former US secretary of defense for the Pacific region Randall Schriver warn South Korea that it would be dangerous for you to going like this way. He added further if South Korea did not change its way so they will also end up like France.

Saifuddin Abdullah foreign minister of Malaysia and Retno Marsudi, his Indonesian counterpart expressed their alarm. According to Retno no one is going to take benefit from the situation. She added, "struggle for maintaining a secure and peaceful region for sure continue and do not want current situation to increase tension for the arms race and of power projection. Indonesia is a country that always own the status of neutrality. After the act of Australia Indonesia support France by stating France is not slow but is showing diplomatic love and is fostering relations with Malaysia. the former Indian ambassador to ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations),

Gurjit Singh stated that QUAD and AUKUS are non-ASEAN centric in region can be a point of concern. In short, if any extra regional actor is making alliance in Indo Pacific region so they should involve ASEAN States first for the betterment of region but if the extra regional actors do not involve any regional State, so it means they are just forming alliance for their own national interest. Wang told the Wellington think tank Diphosphate. "There will be more of a nuclear arms race, more nuclear tests, and nuclear pollution. "Across the Indo Pacific region.

He added that for truly first time ever in history a State without the nuclear weapons will going to have technology containing a specific isotope and enrich uranium, providing recent access to the technology used to build nuclear weapons. "Instead, we have a chance

for moving on with what American President Joe Biden has called the stiff competition. We will compete efficiently in many fields, like business and technology sector. We defend our values. British Foreign Affairs Committee was told by medculf that "Oddly enough, France now faces the real test. France took the Indo-Pacific region seriously long before Australia won the submarine deal in 2016. France in 2015 was a biggest engaged partner of Australia with Indo-Pacific States, as it could be today. It will still be in time. It is important during the meantime, that AUKUS three Power will work with E France and European Union as much as possible to help them fulfill their strategic obligations in the Indo-Pacific, deal with loss by helping France to self-sustain.

Rise of China and Implications For ASEAN

ASEAN States have negotiated with many States to settle down the issues and to promote cooperation. These countries include QUAD and AUKUS members mostly such as; Australia, South Korea, Japan, US, India, and New Zealand and other States. The main aim of talks with these States is to establish a free trade network. It is clearly shown that ASEAN States are closer to adversaries of China. The China's rise in Asia Pacific has brought ASEAN close to AUKUS and QUAD States to prevent China from expansion. South China despite is the root cause of tensions among China and ASEAN. In the U.S. Indo-Pacific Economic Framework ASEAN States are actively participating and are promoting cooperation with US in different sectors clean energy, climate, food security, digital economy etc. Both US and ASEAN blame China for responsible of Climate changing problems.

Rise of China have contributed to fear and security in ASEAN States which results in the integration between US and ASEAN. Much US and ASEAN came close to each other the more China will be challenged in region and become difficult to expand BRI.

China's rise has brought up with new opportunities along with challenges to Southeast Asia. A new political along strategic landscape has occur, not with ASEAN only but seeking economic aid from China, which is vital to the region's development, but also fearing the rise of China and the possibility of Chinese dominance over the region. As a regional questioner ASEAN has responded to the new phenomenon by implementing a cover strategy to leverage 's capabilities and address China's development challenges. While ASEAN's policy of " honest brokerage " has allowed the presence of other powers to counterbalance China, its policy of involving China has made it easier for China to play an interest role in the ASEAN cooperation process.

Regarding the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), this topic has been discussed several times. The biggest opportunity was seen in China's fast-growing market for importing goods and services from ASEAN countries. Some commentators have also predicted that Chinese investment in ASEAN will increase, particularly in the natural resource extraction sectors for which demand in China is growing rapidly. Another opportunity came from China's fast-growing capital goods industry, which could supply machinery and equipment at a lower price than traditional suppliers from Japan, Europe, or the United States. ASEAN's States regarding Rise of China was initially feared but after the unwelcoming response from US regarding alliance formation ASEAN States are now willing to cooperate with China for mutual benefit.

When then Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji first proposed an ASEAN-China Free Trade Agreement in November 2000, there were also fears that imports from China would swamp ASEAN economies and squeeze local industries in their markets. These fears were partially confirmed by the very rapid growth of China's global exports between 1999 and 2003, given the deficient performance observed in ASEAN countries during those years. Many ASEAN members feared that these two trends would result in a sharp slowdown in ASEAN manufacturing growth. It has been argued that given the close similarity in trade patterns and the competitive nature of China-ASEAN economic relations, China and ASEAN would compete rather than complement each other.

Due to China's plentiful supply of cheap labor, massive investment in infrastructure, and improvements in the legal and regulatory environment, ASEAN countries have been particularly concerned about the influx of foreign investment into China at the expense of other parts of developing Asia. As China's GDP per capita rises and a large middle class emerges, it has also been argued that more foreign investment in China will be directed to the domestic market rather than producing for export. In both cases, it was feared that this would affect the flow of investment to ASEAN countries. Not only would new foreign direct investment (FDI) increasingly flow to China rather than ASEAN countries, but large multinational companies that have established export bases in Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia would be tempted to locate in China to benefit from lower production costs and better-quality Logistics to benefit and a large domestic market. Some analysts have argued that ASEAN countries (excluding Singapore) should increase their capacity to quickly absorb new foreign technologies or be left behind.

In the early 2000s, there seemed to be more evidence for the pessimists - who worried about the potential costs of Chinese economic growth - than for the optimists - who emphasized the opportunities for many economies in terms of economic growth. Even before the ASEAN-China Free Trade Agreement came into force in 2010, China's share of ASEAN's trade in goods rose from just 6% in 2002 to 11.6% in 2009. This share continued to rise after 2010, reaching 17.1% reached. While the ten ASEAN countries as a group had surpluses in trade in goods for most years, trade deficits with China were sizeable; it reached \$80 billion in 2016, although it fell to \$68 billion in 2017. Some economists have also pointed to the growth in trade in services, which has outpaced the growth in trade in goods in ASEAN economies over the past two decades. This is partly due to the growth in trade in financial and business services, but also partly to the increase in tourism-related services. While China's Belt and Road initiatives in the ASEAN region have been much talked about, achievements so far have been modest. In Malaysia, a change of government resulted in the cancellation of several transport projects deemed unprofitable by the new government. Elsewhere, many Chinese-funded projects do not seem to get past the planning stage, either due to financial problems on the Chinese side or host countries' doubts about the feasibility of the project. Among the implemented projects, it has been argued that many belong to the luxury real estate sector and bring little benefit to the local population. (Booth., 2019)

Rise of China and Implications for India

India and China have historical territorial dispute and got involve in symmetric conflict. Rise of Beijing within Indo Pacific. is perceived as threat by India because India wants to be the regional Hegemon, but China is now taking the place of India. So, India joins the opponent alliance of China which is QUAD. India is also using counter strategies for China in region such as 'Neighborhood First Policy' and 'Act East Policy.' Through these counter policies India is establishing its economic, military, and political ties with, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Iran, and USA. Like China India has also initiated projects in region such as The India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway and other infrastructure connectivity projects including Kaladan Multi Modal Transit Transport Project. China is exercising to maximize its power in region, India has been exasperated from it and they are countering them. A tussle of tension is increased between both the States to take it on one-on-one level.

China's Rise and India could shift the to economic and political focal point of the world towards Asia over the next 10 years. PRC and India share a lot in common: both have huge populations, strong Economically growth, and historical civilizations without the other having been colonized in the past. However, the two differ in economic along with political structure. From 1978, PRC become kind of the country own great number population and more rich as compare to India, Thanks to its reputation as an exporter of manufactured goods and cheap raw materials, India has become global service center, particularly a center for business process and software outsourcing. Therefore, their actions have a tremendous impact on the world.

Strategists of India are Spending a worthy time trying to understand Chinese regime's immediate objectives and contemplating concrete responses to specific scenarios. It doesn't make sense when we're dealing with a country that thinks in a civilized timeframe. Now scenarios themselves are endogenous to their equations of Power. (Sanyal, 2010)

In the short term, India is likely to do little more than bolster its military defenses, including investing in additional mountain divisions and strategic weapon systems. However, this will prove futile if China continues to build a lead in all other areas. In the longer term, therefore, India needs to consider several policies: (a) India can use its demographic advantage to compete with China's industrial economy over the next twenty years. Policy instruments, from the exchange rate to infrastructure, should be geared towards this goal. Urbanization in one form or another is key to

mobilizing hundreds of millions of new workers – we should consider urban planning as a strategic tool, (b) Faced with an inability to secure external energy/resources like China, India must rigorously protect its domestic mineral and energy resources. Management of the country's natural resources should be done from an intergenerational perspective, (c) India should be more committed to improving relations with other South Asian countries than Pakistan. Likewise, it needs to forge closer ties with Southeast Asia, Japan, and Korea. (d) India must use soft power as an active tool of diplomacy.

According to India China is posing a direct military threat to India, especially given the border disputes between both States. Although India owns good military power, Chinese forces are stronger and well-funded; China's above-average economy is slightly to surpass New India soon. China's influence both in establishing global organizations including UN, in new Chinese institutions and platforms such as the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank provide China with the opportunity to impede India goals and interest in multilateral fora, particularly when it comes to reforming these institutions and Giving India a chance to have a greater say in global affairs. China's alliance with Pakistan and deepening ties with other South Asian countries pose a significant challenge to India's position in a region where New Delhi has dominated for decades. Beijing's ability to provide financial support and balance to India see India's weak neighbors pit power against power and weaken India in its own backyard. PRC's economic strength allows Beijing to expand its presence across the world, which can used as the detriment of India. (RAJAGOPALAN, 2017)

Rise of China and Implications for US

Beijing's rise in Indo-Pacific area has compelled US for Forming alliance such as QUAD and AUKUS. The US is looking for partners in area that help and host US military sites for ensuring USA's politically presence to increase US military with political presence in Pacific region.

USA and Japan then signed a second bilateral security agreement on 19 January 1960, in USA. The treaty's primary goal was to legally approve US military bases on Japanese territory, and the two nations agreed to defend one another. With these accords, the US slowly established its naval presence in the Indo-Pacific region, which caused problems for both China and Russia due to America naval presence Indo Pacific.

According to Pentagon, there are currently 56,000 US soldiers and other military personnel serving in Japan. Also, there are 36,000 active U.S. soldiers located in South Korea and approximately 35,221 in Germany. Along with an increasing counting of troops from Russia's annexation on Ukraine, NATO North Atlantic Treaty Organization) has also provided them with brand-new, innovative light and heavy weapons.

Moreover, the US operates around 120 military installations in Asia. Yet, intelligence reports indicate that the US own approximately 35 covert military facilities in Iraq, Syria, Pakistan, Qatar, Djibouti, Kuwait, and Nigeria. These clandestine bases all collaborate with the US Special Operations Forces, Additionally, these covert bases serve to educate Islamist militias mostly non state operating Pacific, including ISIS, Al Qaeda, Ansarullah, ETIM, and others.

More strategies are also being put into action by the US to keep China and Russia in check, including teaching Uighur, ISIS, Hizb Ut Tahrir-Al-Sham fighters from the Al-Tanf facility in Syria.

Emergence and deployment of international Islamist militaries mostly non-state that support the West in the northern region of Afghanistan because of a recent political void, the threat posed by the Waziristan Taliban in Pakistan, who operate under the TTP umbrella, and the Baloch fighters. Political unrest in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, as well as covert US action, have all contributed to the training of extremist organizations in Pakistan-administrated Kashmir that are trying to control China and thwart the CPEC (China Pakistan Economic Corridor).

China's potential power is significant and growing due to its great population and increasing national economy, with other countries in the region unable to predict when Beijing will claim hegemony, the report is fraught with uncertainty Security allies are expected to work more closely together as they demand more visible US involvement (including an increased military presence). India will become more important to the US.

China's dramatic rise in International Power Structure and influence, particularly since about 2000, has created a growing "growth dilemma" the more it seeks to amass global power, the more it faces external pressures from other states and so as long as the United States relies on security alliances and partnerships in the region, Beijing will seek to nurture relations between countries. According to Weifeng Zhou and Mario Esteban of the Autonomous University of Madrid in Spain, the Roads

Initiative (BRI) represents an important strategic step to start rebuilding the international diplomatic and economic order, in other words, to overtake Beijing from the position to regulate the position of the legislature. China's preference for bilateral ties and its promotion of the BRI as a competitive global power structure risk Beijing's leaders hardening their confrontational stance towards Washington.

Since the early 2000s, China has accepted that it must operate in a unipolar system under American rule, but has protected itself by seeking to deepen ties with many countries around the world to help when Washington does not cooperate – while pushing for a future Seventh – unipolarity does not matter today, to understand the impact that China's continued rise will have on America's position in the geopolitical landscape, it is not yet clear what kind of polarity will emerge, and the ability of states to translate economic power into advanced military power appears to be of increasing importance. increasingly difficult. China engaged in protective measures, improved its military capabilities, avoided direct confrontation with the US military, and sought better relations with Southeast Asian countries as power passed from the US to many other actors. everything until about 2016. While it is difficult to predict China's future foreign policy, particularly towards the United States, Chinese politicians and analysts are increasingly in favor of losing America's superpower status, or at least pointing to what they say Washington's inability to maintain its great Approaching a superpower position in this way would allow him to circumvent American political preferences. It is becoming increasingly important for the United States. Defense policymakers need to consider whether bilateral security ties with key regional players like India are durable enough to be balanced with China. India is expected to prove that it is a key player in US security interests, but there are also threats against the US. South Indian Alliance against China. The containment of China through increased mobilization of partner states in the region plays a prominent role in the security strategies of the USA and India.

CONCLUSION

China is entering into strategic competition related to naval and military modernization so strategic competition is unavoidable which can turn into a security dilemma if not addressed intime with the other stakeholders. Maritime Strategy is a broad concept which does not just deal with naval strategy and naval forces. Significant elements of maritime strategy include Power projection, Sea control and Sea denial. Alfred Thayer Mahan thought that the threat of war could never be eliminated from International Relations till the change in human nature. Mahan considered that the great commercial states would play a leading role in world politics because of the wealth they generated from international trade. Mahan also considered hierarchy as a distinguishing feature of Global Politics and claimed that the Great Powers direct the decisions in International System. The imperial rivalries between great powers in Latin America and Asia were linked with the balance of Power in the European and global system. According to Mahan the Hegemon always desired expansionist foreign policy to contain their rival that became hindrance in becoming them naval power. The boundaries of this new system would be determined by how much deference people living inside China's sphere of influence are ready to provide Beijing, not by strict geographic or ideological bounds. However, China's overall diplomacy in the Indo-Pacific region is observed as part of its broader and exemplary efforts to create its unbeatable influence and make a strong global position. Due to some territorial claims made by China, some other countries view the positive initiatives of China with great suspicion. Although, it is also argued son international levels by the critics that China's BRI project is an evil tool to expand its influence and acquired strategic leverage in the region. The negativity that China faces from other countries despite being positive is due to some facts including the accusation of China for using economic coercion to influence countries in the region. This influence was made by holding trade or aid to pressure underprivileged countries to adopt global policies that are in favor of China.

China's interest in the Indo-Pacific region has been shaped by a combination of economic, strategic, and diplomatic factors. The region is of critical importance to China's economic growth and development, and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has been a key tool for China's expansion in the region. China's territorial disputes in the South China Sea have led to tensions with other countries, particularly the United States, and its assertive behavior has raised concerns about regional stability and security. To promote regional stability and cooperation, diplomatic engagement, conflict resolution, transparency and accountability, respect for international law, and

economic cooperation should be promoted. These recommendations aim to promote stability, cooperation, and development in the region while respecting the sovereignty and interests of all parties involved.

Overall, the diplomatic policies of China in the Indo –Pacific region are a complex and multifaceted issue that include both positive and negative influence and aspect. Moreover, the matter of the fact is that China’s economic and security initiatives have the potential to benefit the region, and its assertiveness and expansionism have also been the reason to create conflicts and tensions. The concern for China and its supporting countries revolves around global performance which entails the relation of China with other countries in the Indo-Pacific region and its impact as well. China has increased its vocalization of its displeasure with the current global order under Xi Jinping. Its stance has lately changed from one that was mostly defensive to one that is more forceful and forward-leaning to change the system. To deal with Strategic problems Great Powers are using Economic power which has increased the competition over regional infrastructure and economic integration, projects. Trade and investment in the region have fueled the situation in the region and increased the Great Powers' rivalry. By 2030 China is projected to become the world’s largest economy and its ground-breaking innovation, artificial intelligence, and pioneering technologies to enhance naval and military capabilities will help China to get into a dominant position. with the future unpredictability of US-China strategic competition, the US administration under the presidency of Joe Biden considered that the rise of China is not single-handedly. Further US President added that through geo-economics, geopolitical, and geostrategic convergences of different powerful nations in the Indo-Pacific region Chinese increasing aggression can be stopped instead of only US confrontation. To implement this strategy (AUKUS) is established based on a strategic partnership to promote a collective vision of a free and inclusive Indo-Pacific.

China's economic performance in real GDP has been impressive over the past few decades. Since the economic reforms were introduced in the late 1970s, China has experienced rapid economic growth, with real GDP expanding at an average rate of around 10% per year from 1980 to 2020.

According to the World Bank, China's real GDP was \$14.7 trillion in 2020, making it the second-largest economy in the world after the United States. In 2020, China's real GDP grew by 2.3% despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Strengthening relations with neighboring countries: Given the importance of the Indo-Pacific region for China's economic and strategic interests, building closer ties with neighboring countries could help to reduce tensions and promote regional stability.
- Addressing concerns over trade and investment practices: China's economic policies and practices have been a source of concern for many countries, particularly in terms of intellectual property rights, market access, and subsidies. Addressing these concerns could help to reduce tensions and promote greater economic cooperation.
- Encouraging greater transparency and accountability: Transparency and accountability are important principles for promoting trust and confidence in international relations. Encouraging greater transparency in areas such as military spending and territorial claims could help to reduce tensions and promote stability.
- Promoting human rights and democracy: While China's foreign policy has traditionally emphasized non-interference in the domestic affairs of other countries, promoting human rights and democracy could help to enhance China's global reputation and influence.
- Consular engagement: Dialogue and engagement between China and other countries in the region should be promoted through various multilateral forums to address shared concerns and promote understanding.
- Conflict resolution: Disputes over territorial claims in the South China Sea should be resolved through peaceful means, such as negotiation and dialogue. All parties involved should refrain from any actions that could escalate tensions and lead to conflict.
- Transparency and accountability: China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) should adhere to international standards of transparency and accountability to prevent concerns over debt sustainability and ensure long-term benefits for the recipient countries.
- Respect for international law: All parties involved should respect and adhere to international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), to promote stability and prevent conflicts.
- In IOR an Indo-China competition is result of mistrust between neighboring States. The problem has been unresolved for a long time and has become a threat to regional security and stability. Both States are trying to become maritime Power. Both States have the same

main goals and indulge in clashes to fulfill these goals. The increasing strategic competition between both States is fueled by the existing past unresolved border issues such as Ladakh. To prevent security and stability in the region both States must increase cooperation through different regional organizations such as SCO and through signing different multilateral agreements. Both States should refrain from making any hardcore military permanent settlements in the immediate neighborhood. Military measures should only be used in dire need for defensive purposes.

- The threat of war can only be eliminated from International Relations if there is a positive change in human nature and this can only happen if the public elect their representatives who have positive and non-biased manifesto. To prevent conflict in International Relations there should be equal distribution of resources. In addition to it, every State in International System should be treated equally and will have right to say not just permanent members of UN otherwise such discrimination can negatively impact the Foreign Policy behavior of State.
- China must opt cooperative and supportive strategies towards Indo-Pacific States and should introduced easy loan return policies for least developed States so there should be less chances of bank default and States can easily complete their developing programs. Instead of developing individual military basis in different states to protect trade in Indo Pacific region China should work on institutionalizing security goals by inviting regional stakeholders for collective security action against the external security threat so overall trade movement in region will be secure.
- The rivals have eyes on China's regional policies due to its day-night emerging successful diplomatic relations. China has sought to deepen its roots and relationships with countries in the Indo-Pacific region. These roots can be deepened through its Belt and Road Initiative. BRI (Belt Road Initiative) can only be successful completely if China will resolve its territorial disputes in region through negotiation. By resolving territorial issues peacefully China can gain trust of other States and can invite them to become a part of BRI.
- To counter US Hegemony in Indo-Pacific region China must make its policy flexible and open towards Japan especially and found common ground in energy sectors and as well as political sector through Abnormal Approach of Conflict.

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