



RESEARCH PAPER

China's Xinjiang and Pakistan's Baluchistan Problem: Impacts on CPEC

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ABSTRACT

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The events of 9/11 have radically altered the entire discussion of Minorities – especially Muslim ones – and the issue of terrorism. As real as is the threat of al-Qaida and its international connections, many regimes of the world have seized on the US Global War against Terrorism to legitimize their own repression of Muslim and even Non-Muslim minorities. We have witnessed this in both friendly state, China and Pakistan. Most of the heterogeneous populated states consist of different ethnic communities. Each ethnic identity has different voices and demands, for the accomplishment of which, a continuous struggle is going on, influencing the national politics. Pakistan and China like other developing states of the world is also in front of identity crisis almost in there important federating units, Pakistan in Baluchistan and China in Xinjiang, with different concerns. These concerns are sometimes ethno-nationality, decentralization of powers, provincial autonomy and economic discrepancies. After the dismemberment of East Pakistan, the most sensitive and hot issue is the case of Baluchistan's ethno-national movement which sometimes in different occasions seem to be transformed to a militant or an insurgent group for fulfillment of their objectives. And same problem in china's Xinjiang in the case of the Uyghur. In this paper elements of Baluchistan's and Xinjiang ethnic movement, its causes and CPEC as a solution will be thoroughly analyzed.

Introduction

Education States which have their colonial past possess a distinct socio-cultural and politico-economic history. But after getting independence these states unfortunately came in the grip of politically corrupt politicians and their

governmental policies carrying their infant states and their people to warfare situations. According to Adeel Khan the conflicting situation in Pakistan is due to a continuous struggle among the powerful and non-powerful groups and this conflict is due to power in politics. So if the political power is shared by different ethnic groups for minimization of tension, stability and politico-economic development will obviously come true (A. Khan 2005). Tahir Amin says that it is necessary that each ethnic group must be taken into account with equal footings and contribution in national political affairs in order to avoid a civil war in a state (Amin 1988).

The largest geography with smallest population and poorest in socio-economic developments, despite of, being rich in mineral resources, with low presence in high level employment and nominal political representation in national politics in Pakistan is the province of Baluchistan, and in China the province of Xinjiang. Both provinces are very much important for their states on different level. Baluchistan is a gate-way to Central Asian republics, Afghanistan, China, Europe and Western Asia is also in its approach because of Gawder Port and such other mega projects and that's why rule of law, peace, development and political and economic stability are priority areas both for Baluchistan and Pakistan.

Its population consists of two types of people Balochis and Pashtoons. Southern and Northwestern people are Pashtoons and have a political influence due to influx of Afghan refugees increasing numerical strength, especially in Quetta. The Balochis are divided mainly into two groups i.e Balochi and Brahui on the basis of language. These two groups are further divided into sub-groups or tribes i.e Marris, Bugtis, Bizonjos. Major ethnic groups speak Pukhto, Balochi, Brahvi and Mongals in Balochistan (Majeed 2010).

According to British colonial census Balochi and Brahvi were declared as two separate and distinct languages and ethnic groups. With the inception of Baloch nationalist movement, the term Baloch encircles in itself not only Brahvi group but other linguistic groups of the southern Balochistan as well and these groups recognized themselves as a part of the 'Baloch nation' and distinct from Pukhtoon and other Aethnic groups. Anyhow, Brahvi as the most prominent non-Baloch identity get involved in Baloch nationalist politics and so raised demand of provincial autonomy. The demands raised by Balochi peoples are very seldom addressed by the central government actually and due to these grievances some political parties and insurgent groups are not happy to accommodate themselves with in the same state structure and therefore raise the voice of separation (Jehan 1972).

Pak- China relation in friendship and trade begins since China's year of independence 1949. Pakistan is the first country in the world to accept china at UNO summit. China respects the stand and support of Pakistan. China is the only country in the world, which helps Pakistan at every environment, for instance

trade, commerce, agriculture, defense etc. Presently they are contributing on large scale in Power and Energy sector to tackle the shortage of electricity and power problems in Pakistan. Additionally China is helping Pakistan in defense related activities.

China wants to enhance its access to the new markets, because China is emerging as a giant economic power and it needs greater demands nationally or internationally. People's Republic of China which is second largest economy established its diplomatic relations with Pakistan on May 21, 1951, these relations then converted into bilateral trade and economic cooperation which extensively deepened politically, and economically. The Economic prosperity of any country is directly or indirectly depends upon its geographical structure. The driving forces or tools for the furious economy are roads, infrastructure, education, and boarder's location and their links. But in spite of all these blessings if we don't have good governance or management then this geographical structure is mere a documented feature for any country.

Strategic Significance of CPEC and Xinjiang

Every activity revolve around the economy and definitely strategic importance more enhance when it gives the surety of cooperation between the countries ,well developed infrastructure ,contain social and political unrest and borders connections with the economic prosperity. Similarly CPEC is a huge and multidimensional project is considerable from its map. As it is obvious from its vision of One Belt One Road (OBOR) or new Silk Road Economic Development Corridor (SRED), CPEC is the concept, which is giving a surety of full-fledge cooperation between the China and West, Central Asia and South Asia. It will generate thousands of jobs, employment opportunities, construction and re-construction of infrastructure, industrial zones, wind and thermal power projects. Billions of dollars investment includes construction of roads, railway lines and other modern communications from the Chinese Province of Xinjiang to the Gwadar Port (Xiguang 2015).

China is rising peacefully because of their industries and non-violence policies, and there economic position is going to strong day by day. The Chinese products captured the domestic markets of different European and non-European states and the world population demands of Chinese products increases day by day. So China needs energy to run its industries in the form of oil and gas, so through this corridor the construction of gas and oil pipe lines will be constructed which will meet the energy demands. China needs markets to sell its goods and purchase raw material to run its industries. CPEC foremost objective is to develop its Western Province Xinjiang to create more and more opportunities for the people and diminish the resentments of the Xinjiang.

Similarly in Pakistan, Baluchistan and KPK are the provinces which are deprived and under developed province, Sindh also fell into the hands of State

rivals and Punjab is considered developed but mostly of its part is underdeveloped.

For Pakistan it is not just a matter of interest it is a dire need of internal harmony, peace and prosperity. It will connect the cities; maximize the improvement of infrastructure, communication system, and industries which are not working due to the energy crises. Terrorism is another cause which has made the Pakistan atmosphere not suitable for investments. Youth have become despair because lack of facilities and opportunities .Once Pakistan completed CPEC, skillful and positive youth will come forward .By the times the things will be better.

Pakistan will be self-sufficient and will no more in need of loans, debts and aid. Our economy would be our strength and will lead the Pakistan to be an independent foreign policy maker.

If Pakistan wants to stop the curse of terrorism then it has to take initiative sincerely to overcome the resentments of the deprived provinces.

Education sector in CPEC project should give much more importance because it will work as an instant to the development. Through Built and road Scholarships Hundreds of Pakistanis went to China last year of higher studies and mostly these students are from KP and Baluchistan. China needs short and cheaper route and route through Indian Ocean is quite cheap and less time taking as compare to Malacca Strait of Hormuz.

Strait of Hormuz is full of risk because of the danger of piracy. Another fear for China that Malacca route is dominated by the united states of American led Asian alliance. Malacca route can be blocked whenever the tensions would be rise. China's 80% energy imports flow through Strait of Malacca. Sea routes are very important strategically because it will help China to make its influence greater in the South Asia. India is a big threat for both Pakistan and China stability. So by the access to the Indian Ocean China would be able to keep an eye on the movements of the Indian Navy.

China is hoping that if Western Province Xinjiang would be stable economically, then the whole western part would be stabilized both politically and socially. China is confronting with the same evils, with which Pakistan is suffering.

Background of Unrest in Xinjiang

The ethnic problem and extremist elements in Xinjiang Uyghur Autonyms Region is still a big problem for China internal and external security. Xinjiang remain a source of instability for Beijing. The issue inside Xinjiang is basically ethnic but due to some religious restriction from Chinese government on Uyghur, the ethnic issue change to violence, bombing and terrorist activities. Historically the Uyghur consider their community separate from other Chinese communities.

The Uyghur are different from Chinese in different ways. The linguistic and religious differences amongst the Chinese and Uyghur make both the ethnic group separate from each other socially, politically and culturally. The Uyghur are basically central Asians and Turks, and that's why still the Uyghur Support and Adopt their culture, language and way of life. According to Uyghur's Xinjiang was not a part of China, it was an independent state of Uyghur and other Muslim ethnic groups. The Uyghur are Sunni Muslim and have close connection with the Muslim community. The unrest in Xinjiang and the terrorist affiliation of these groups with the foreign extremist element compels Beijing to take sever action against them for the purposes to avoid such threats to China sovereignty. The Xinjiang Muslim wants a separate state in the name of East Turkistan but the Beijing cannot compromise on their territorial disintegration. For last several years thousands of people were killed and many Chinese officials were kidnapped. The people of Xinjiang enjoyed two time de facto independence from nineteen thirty three to nineteen forty nine but after 1949 the Chinese authority control the region again and bring some restrictive policies in the land, which is against the fundamental religious rights of Uyghur's and very much helpful for the Han Chinese. So such policies make Uyghur against the Han Chinese within Xinjiang and also start violence's and separatist movements against Beijing authorities.

The Old Silk Route and China-Pakistan Connection

The old silk route covered more than forty different states in past history and consists of two main branches. The one branch cover Indian side and the other pass through now called turkey and then from turkey to Europe. The route was not only used for trade but also have important role in religion exchange between various states of the world and especially between turkey and China's Xinjiang province. In Xinjiang still most of the ethnic groups have Turkic origin; their culture, custom and language and also body language are similar with the people of turkey (Waugh 2010).China-Pakistan economic corridor is very important to strengthen their relations and it is very important that Author analyzing the strategic significance Of China Pakistan economic corridor. For China this corridor will reduce 12000 kilometers route to the 2,500-2,700 kilometers route. The corridor project also gives potential to regional stability and economic integration but efforts are being practicing to dismantle the feasibility of the CPEC project (Sial 2014).

Maritime Silk Economic Corridor

The china president was very clear about the making of economic zones and reestablishing of the silk route, because he invites the regional states and especially Central Asian to play cooperative role in this project. The central Asian and China have old connection trough culture and strategic location of Xinjiang. The central Asian states share border with China through Xinjiang Uyghur Autonyms region, and China face allots of problem from that particular region of Xinjiang in shape of terrorism. So the Xi Jinping wants to develop both the region

through these economic developmental policies in shape reviving of old silk route to the new silk route (Cohen 2013).

The Strategic location of Eastern and western routes

The Eastern route is longer than the western and central route. Eastern route has given the name eastern on the basis of eastern side of Pakistan where Punjab is located. Punjab is considered developed from the beginning since independence of Pakistan. But as far as it is importantly concerned that the main issue is the passage of eastern route from the already developed area in Punjab, the backward areas comes under the eastern route is south and central Baluchistan, northern Sindh and southern Punjab but mostly it will pass through the developed area of central Punjab.(Sial 2014).The western route is shorter than Eastern and central route. This route will pass through those areas which are below the poverty line, people are ignorant very few people are qualified, unemployment rate is high. So this route is having many opportunities to these backward areas.

The areas through which the western route will pass are barren. Automatically population density is low in turn the people will be displaced and suffered would also be low. The areas along with the western route are arid and hilly. It will cross the Indus river between Peshawar and Hasanabdal. It requires wide and good quality of road. Security issues are relatively higher than the eastern route. This route covers two provinces Baluchistan and KPK in Pakistan and both the provinces are under the extremism and terrorism.

CPEC and Xinjiang Uyghur Separatist in Pakistan

Xinjiang is a factor between China and Pakistan One Belt and One Road Project, China signs an agreement with his all-weather friend, Pakistan to invest forty six billion dollars in different developmental projects. The Chinese President Xi Jinping visit in April to Islamabad and announce in a high official meeting, that China is interested to invest in Pakistan and Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomy region in shape of China-Pakistan Economic Corridors (Ritzinger August, 2015).

The question rises here that why China want to invest billions of dollars in Pakistan and Xinjiang? There are different reasons and interests of China behind this huge investment of China inside Pakistan and Xinjiang. The aims behind this project are to develop western region of China and underdeveloped areas of Pakistan, to avoid the most threaten problem of terrorism and extremism and also ethnic issues of Baluchistan and Xinjiang. The Corridor route project will be a direct connection between Kashgar of China and Gwadar of Pakistan. Xinjiang and Baluchistan are considered the home of ethnic violence and separatism and also both provinces are poor in different perspective, socially politically and economically. Both the provinces have great potential of natural resources and geographical location. The Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomy Region connect Central Asian states with central China and also connect shortly China with Pakistan and

Europe , but the problem in Xinjiang from several years of terrorism and separatism make some difficulties for china Foreign and internal policies.

Security Issues

Security is the top priority of both the countries, to strengthen their economic developmental projects. The most important goal for China is to reach the rich resources of central Asia and Middle East, and for Pakistan the important interest is to develop their economic position and solve energy issues. China Pakistan economic Corridor has been a land mark to fulfill both the countries objectives and goals, but before that achievement both the countries faced security problems for last several years. The Uyghur militants inside Xinjiang are a challenge for China internal and also external security, because these groups have linkages with the other terrorist groups, who operate inside Pakistan. The East Turkistan Islamic movement is an active terrorist organization inside Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomy's region, and involved in several terrorist attacks inside China western province and Pakistan tribal areas. The other side Pakistan base terrorist organization like TTP and other groups has close ties with ETIM, and also with the Islamic movements of Uzbekistan. So such a relationship between these terrorist groups is a big challenge to the Chinese and Pakistani workers inside the CPEC. In Xinjiang the Uyghur separatist movements and terrorist organization can challenge any time the Chinese Economic Zones in the region. China with the collaboration of Pakistan needs to avoid such militants from his region Xinjiang. Pakistan started operation inside his tribal agencies in the name of Zarb -I Azab, to avoid all terrorist groups, and especially ETIM and Uyghur Terrorist. The security issue in both countries is a dangerous part of this project, because Xinjiang is the starting place of CPEC route and Baluchistan is the ending point, and both the areas pace militant's issue. So the security issue must be resolved before materializing the project, and both the countries utilizing there recourses to eliminate this issue. The foreign Terrorist groups inside Pakistan and Afghanistan are not against China, as we compare with the United States, but The East Turkistan Islamic Movements and the Islamic movement of Uzbekistan play active role to challenge Chinese interest inside Pakistan (Rana 2014).

The end place of China Pakistan Economic route is Baluchistan, which is full of natural resources, but the Bloch ethnic issue is also a challenge for both countries interest through the Gwadar port. Xinjiang and Baluchistan both are underdeveloped areas and the problems faced by the two different provinces is closely related to the Economic inequalities and state policies. In Xinjiang the Uyghur is unhappy with the Han migration and there dominant role in politics and socio-economic activities, and same is the case in Baluchistan the local people feel deprivation from migrated people and also from government. Xinjiang natural resources has great importance for China, and after materialization of economic project these resources can be utilize, but the Uyghur and local residents cannot be compromise with government, because of win lose situation between Han and Uyghur's. The China- Pakistan economic Corridor passed through those areas in

Xinjiang and also in Pakistan, which were populated highly by militants. The historical event in Xinjiang and Pakistan clearly shows that if such militants were not abolished, in future it will be challenge the relationship and economic project of both the countries. The security issue from Xinjiang and also from Pakistan must be resolved, and both the countries recently joined hand with each other to eliminate all those terrorist groups and separatist movement who is challenge to economic project.

Geographical location of CPEC and Terrorist elements

“The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, Regional Dynamics and China’s Geopolitical Ambitions” mentioned that China is going to invested \$46 billion on CPEC project but the project is challenged by the disturb security, and domestic politics. Changing political decisions over CPEC routes has produced complexity in political environment especially in KPK and Baluchistan. Security situation is not suitable for Chinese workers. They need tough security for the workers. In Baluchistan separatist and extremist targeted the Chinese workers. The Political controversy between different political parties over the eastern and western alignment and the security issues of western route, political stability, and security issues in Baluchistan and overall Pakistan like terrorism should be surmounted for the completion of the project. So at the end of the day it is very important for policy maker and researcher to mentioned the political parties reservation and controversy in detail over the Eastern and western routes, its utility and Government’s role in the implementation of CPEC project and how it would be resolved(Abbas 2008)

Conclusion

The peaceful rise of China in the world structure has a great importance for his underdeveloped region Xinjiang. The rise of China is not a threat to Xinjiang Uyghur Autonyms Region, but Xinjiang is a threat for Chinese interest in the global and especially in the region. The Uyghur militants and their relationships with the global terrorist organizations from several years was a serious challenging point for Chinese foreign policy. The majority of Han were migrated to Xinjiang to balance their demographic position and control the ethnic issue of separatism, but failed. The Uyghur ethnic make East Turkistan Islamic Movement as an organization for supporting their agenda of separatism. The other side in Pakistan, all the provinces in general and Baluchistan in specific are in continuous struggle to have an adequate share in national financial resources, water, representation in national legislature, and quota in public jobs etc but these thing by themselves lead t sectarianism and ethnic polarization giving a negative impact to economic development due to which mega projects are not going to initiate and so changes the forth coming prosperity into a misery. CPEC is actually a framework for Economic stability in underdeveloped Areas of both countries particularly and generally for the whole regional economic prosperity. Currently both the countries are working hard to develop their most important economic project of CPEC but

both the countries also face different hurdles to fulfill this aim. China need security for their workers of CPEC and Pakistan must provide it to secure their interest. The most important issue for materializing the project is not political environment but security issue. There are three dimension of unrest which faced both the countries. First the issue of Xinjiang and ETIM presence in Pakistan, Second the unrest inside Baluchistan, and the third issue is global terrorism. So such challenges can any time abolish the materialization of CPEC. Pakistani authorities after the army public school incident become very serious against terrorist elements, because all the civil and military institution joined hand for countering terrorism under the formation of National Action Plan (NAP). China is also support Pakistan economically and materially, in counter terrorism policy.

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