

Empirical Evidence Of Geo-Economics & Geo-Politics: A Case Study Of China's Interests In Central Asia And Its Implications Towards India

Dr. Syed Waqas Haider Bukhari¹, Dr. Asif Amin², Dr. Marriyam Siddique³

¹Assistant Professor, School of International Relations, Minhaj University Lahore, drswbukhari@gmail.com

²Assistant Professor, School of Integrated Social Sciences (SISS), University of Lahore, asif.asii@live.com

³Political Scientist with a PhD from Jilin University China, drmariyam16@gmail.com

Abstract

Research design is deemed mandatory to expedite the smooth running of different research operations. Design aids the researcher to foster his idea by viewing all possible blemishes and inadequacies. There are different classifications of research. For the establishment of cause-and-effect relations in this study there is the need of three kinds of variables dependent variable, independent variable and control variable. In the study, while using causal research design, the relationship of causality between China's Policy towards Central Asia and its implications on India's interests will be thoroughly investigated. For collection of secondary data Scott's four criteria will be applied to check the quality of data. Furthermore, in study for the interpretation of data, qualitative and quantitative data analysis techniques will be used. Analysis of data will be divided into following six stages. In term of reasoning there are two classifications of research i.e., inductive and deductive. While using deductive approach two theories will be used to evaluate China's geo-economics interests in Central Asia and its implications on India. Research ethics are very vital in overall process of the research. In this study the researcher will kept in mind all the ethics of research during work.

Keywords: Causal Research, Geo-Economics, Reasoning, Path Analysis, Mixed Methods

Introduction

In the beginning of any study it is very convenient to elaborate exhaustively the overall research process which is going to be embraced to accomplish in the dissertation. Research design is deemed mandatory to expedite the smooth running of different research operations. For better and captive construction of house there is the need of a well-defined blueprint crafted by an expert architect. Similarly, while writing down this study, a research design is obligatory in advance for collection of data and facilitation of overall research process. The research design is used to advance the planning of the methods for

the collection of data and its analysis by advancing the objectives of the research. Design aids the researcher to foster his idea by viewing all possible blemishes and inadequacies. In the absence of research design, it would be very hard to consummate the research without errors in time. So, the research design provides philosophical basis of the research and is to be established to clarify the reason of choosing specific research method, research methodology, reasoning, classification of research etc.

Case Study

Central Asian region is in flux because of insecurity and involvement of different players

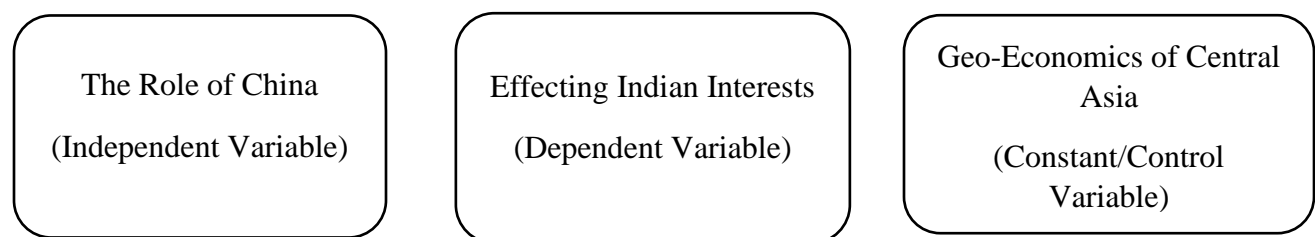
with diversity of interests. For China, Central Asia is very noteworthy because of its hydrocarbon reserves. Hence it is a major transportation hub for gas and oil pipelines, at the same time it is a multi-modal communication corridor bridging China, Russia, Europe, the Caucasus region, the Trans-Caspian region and the Indian Ocean.

The geo-economics of Central Asian resources is fabricating problems for China because other players are looking captive towards it especially India. China shares borders with CARs presumably the growing interests may jeopardize in coming years at the same time it can construct muddle for Central Asian States. Other factors such as terrorism, militancy, insecurity and the conflicting interests may also leave profound implications on the overall environment of the region. The tensions are mounting among CARs. China and India aim at establishing economic superiority in the region. Despite of the fact that both states are interlinked in terms of economic intercourse but their quest in Central Asia may pose a severe threat. The international key players are also apprehensive about their proliferated influence in the region. In the presence of multiple players, Central Asia have

become a playground of competition especially between India and China, which is what this research is aimed at researching.

Causal Research Design

There are different classifications of research. One can choose specific classification according to the purpose of research. Causality drives from three basic concepts of scientific methods i.e., order, determinism and discoverability. For the establishment of cause-and-effect relations in this study there is the need of three kinds of variables dependent variable, independent variable and control variable. The variable which is deliberately manipulated by the researcher is known as independent variable. The dependent variable is the one measured to determine the effect of the manipulated (independent) variable. While the control variable has always remained constant during the research. It is assumed that the independent variable has cause and effect relationship with depended variable. For example, in this study the role of China is an independent variable which is impeding Indian interests (Dependent Variable) in Central Asia. Similarly, geo-economics or resources of Central Asian states is the constant or control variable.



In the study, while using causal research design, the relationship of causality between China's Policy towards Central Asia and its implications on India's interests will be thoroughly investigated. Through causal design, an attempt will be made to precise investigation of the existing research problem. Generally following methods will be used while keeping in mind the causal research design.

1. Survey of concerning literature
2. In-depth analysis of insight facts and their interpretation
3. Developing a cause-and-effect relationship with the help of hypothesis and objectives of study to resolve existing research problem.

According to Deepak Chawla and Neena Sodhi in causal research the researcher explores the effects of one variable on another. Causal research is very appropriate and structured approach for collection of data and its analysis (Chawla & Sodhi, 2011). In the view of Fred M. Feinberg, Thomas Kinnear and James R. Taylor causal research is a type of conclusive research design to muster the evidences to find out cause and effect relations between variables. This design is very cleared and well-structured which minimize not only the errors, but also escalates reliability. Causal research is very useful while focusing on following research objectives: -

1. To see which variables, increase the effect and at the same time focusing on why the effects are happening.
2. To see the relationship between causing variables and their effects (Fienberg, Kinnear, & Taylor, 2013).

Researchers have varied attitude towards the concept of causality. In contemporary, the researcher who is involved in causal research has the objective to produce causal knowledge by developing causal relationship between variables. The ways in which the researchers have to deal with the problem have included path analysis where correlations are established in terms of structural analysis which is designed to identify possible causal relationship (Jupp, 2006). In the presence of different research designs, causal design is adopted because of the nature of causal relationship existing in hypothesis. This design will be handy to handle the research problem in which the relationship of causality is existential. Moreover, through Causal Research Design an endeavor will be made to find causal relationships among the variables those are measured in the dissertation.

Rationale of Theory

In order to comprehend China's approach towards Central Asian States and its implications

on India, it is obligatory to embrace the topic into a theoretical framework. The combination of two theories will be applied to complete the dissertation. First the theory/paradigm of energy security will be used to follow the growing energy thrust of China. Second the theory of geo-economics will be used to cover the geo-economic of Central Asia. Central Asia is rich in term of natural resources, but it is landlocked. Politically, China has friendly relations with CARs and China is investing in different energy or infrastructure related projects in these states. Many other regional as well as extra regional powers are indulged in CARs and India is one of them. In the presence of these powers there is tussle over resources. China and CARs have direct land excess, but the secure supply of these energy related reserves is a headache. So, in order to cover the theoretical portion two theories will be used.

There are many theories of international relations which can cover theoretical foundation of the study. The rationale behind choosing the theory of energy security is that after reviewing the literature it is evident that there is the factor of energy security which is behind China's foreign policy towards Central Asia. The literature proposes that China is nurturing its economy with growing energy demands. After reviewing scholarly work, the theory of energy security is adopted to cover the growing energy demands. The story does not end here, another theory of geo-economics is going to be used to cover resources of Central Asian states. The rationale of this theory is that China is interested in the resources of these states, so it is adopting the policy of geo-economics and not of geo-politics. Furthermore, description of both theories is as following: -

Conceptualizing Energy Security

Energy has always been a core issue for almost every state of the world regardless of the fact that it is a developed or an underdeveloped country.

Since the incident of Arab countries blocking the oil supply to US and Europe, the need of energy security was badly felt by relevant quarters in power.

It is believed that energy security does not have the same potential for all concerned people and even not in all scenarios and situations. There are obvious reasons for this difference in perceptions. Firstly, the energy systems are not the same in every place, and so are the energy security demands. Secondly, the 'energy security' phenomenon is linked to other energy strategically issues extending from energy deprivation to climatic changes. There are many other concepts about energy security which are interpreted by those who want to make it a firsthand problem and dispartate it from the issues and debates of climate changes (Aleh & Jessica, 2011).

It was after 1970s oil crises that the international energy agency was setup in 1974 and it aimed at stabilizing the supply of crude oil and security of price. There is a three-fold evaluation of energy security, firstly, there should be an adequate supply of energy for running the day-to-day regular operations of a country and it should stay stable. Energy security should be at first hand treated as a vital source of development and survival of a nation. Secondly, there should be security of energy use, which means that energy should be consumed in such a way that it should not affect drastically environmental scenario and last long for survival of human population. The energy consumption should be treated as per GDP; it should have a positive outcome on economy to give it a good outlook. Thirdly, the energy consumption ratio should be a part of its production and it should remain stable and concurrent and perpetual. Stability is the first most point to be observed by a progressive nation while formulating the standards of its economy and devising the tactics to promote industry development.

Theory of Geo-Economics

There are different states in the world; some are small others are big; some are militarily strong and some are weak; some are endowed with rich resources and some are poor. Natural features along with the strategic location provide an advantage to a state in its interaction with neighbors (Russett, Sattar, & Kinsella, 2000). State's strategic location and environment plays vital role in crafting state foreign policy and its interaction with other states. Geopolitics emphasizes the efficacy of geography on the power of state in international system. It elaborates that states' shape their foreign policies according to their surroundings, physical locations and reserves (Kegley Jr & Wittkopf, 1999). The idea of Geo-economics is oriented from the concept of geo-politics. Geopolitics is an essential feature of world politics. Historically, geography played a vital role in interactions between people. It outlines the uniqueness, nature and history of nations and states. Geopolitics examines the clout of geography on state's foreign policy choices and its status in international system.

Geo-Politics vs. Geo-Economics

This term "Geopolitics" was first coined by Swedish political scientist Rudolf Kjellen in 1899. Later in nineteenth century, geopolitics was highlighted as a field of study by two scholars, Alfred Thayer Mahan and Sir Halford John Mackinder. According to Mahan, a state which controls sea will dominate the world and in order to control sea, it is essential that the state should have vigorous naval force and other shoreline facilities. Later on in 1919, Halford Mackinder further elaborated Mahan's argument and said that the state which controls the land between Germany and Siberia would lead the world and he termed his theory as "Heartland theory". According to geopolitics the relations between power, location and wealth is very vital. A state

which is endowed with good climate will be militarily and economically stronger than other states (Roach, Griffiths, & O'Callaghan, 2007).

The term geo-economics was first time used by Jacques Boudeville in 1966 who was a French economic geographer. He believed that theory of liberal growth pole was used in terms of geo-economics, which he deemed alternative to geopolitics (Deborah & Smith, 2009). The proponents of geo-economics argue that emerging new world order would be based on economic competition in global markets instead of conflicts between or within states. Political hostility is anticipated to change into the law in a peaceful mode, during the period of multilateral economic cooperation and competition. According to geo-economics, free trade will expand the wealth of a nation and consequently, globalization will be an edge (Altvater, n.d.).

In 19th century geo-economics began when decolonization of the world undermined the power of European countries and gave feasibility to America to rule the world through international markets. Initially, American leadership faced challenges in becoming global power from those which were against this new system, especially European countries. In this new system, Americans believed that triumph in international market cannot be gained by capturing territories.

Geo-economics reemerged with the restoration of American President Franklin Roosevelt's 'New World Order' and Breton Woods System, but, failed incidentally due to the shadow of Cold War. After the end of Cold War, geo-economics appeared for the third time and changed the focus of the world from geopolitical to geo-economics priorities (Deborah & Smith, 2009). This transfer, from military to economy, changed international power system and the foreign policy patterns of the states (Kegley Jr & Wittkopf, 1999).

Methodology

Research Methodology is a vital part of every research. However, after reading the literature about methods and methodology in International Relations, the word methodology is chosen as... "Methodology is subsumed within ontology, epistemology and the theoretical arranging of concepts structuring the discussions, whereas method becomes at best a reflection on the tools for organizing empirical material and practical research design" (Aradau & Huysmans, 2014). Social science research methodology comprises on rules which defines how social investigation should be conducted. Moreover, it deals between the procedure and the product of research (Ramazanoglu & Holland, 2002). The methodology of this dissertation is as below:

Data and Sources

Research for every well-grounded study can be carried out by focusing on both primary and secondary (Mix Method) literature related to the topic. The mixed methods research approach indulges both primary and secondary data i.e., theoretical and numerical. Up to date literature in form of official documents including SCO documents may be used. The major source of data may remain archival and library research. Primary data may mainly focus on officials' statements of leaders, official documents (Translated) and official webpages of China, India, CARs and SCO. The secondary data may be in form of library material and other documents. For collection of secondary data Scott's four criteria may be applied to check the quality of data. These are: -

1. Authenticity: That is, whether the data collected for the dissertation is authentic and of unquestionable origin.
2. Credibility: - To quest out the extent to which the evidence collected is free from error and distortion.
3. Representative: - That is, whether the evidence obtained is typical of its kind or not.

4. Meaning: - To search the extent to which the evidence gathered is clear and comprehensible (Scott, 1990).

In order to meet the afore-mentioned criteria a comprehensive and clear approach based on authentic and credible sources has been used.

Data Analysis

The analysis is the examination or the study something carefully for better understanding and producing new or fresh knowledge about it. This means to break down the data into its different parts to learn about its structure and study the composition of its different parts and how they are put together. Albeit a researcher can analyze either qualitative or quantitative data according to the nature of research. The nature of this study is qualitative with a flavor of quantitative method based on both primary and secondary data. There are wide range of sources those has been used to provide analysis of China's interests in Central Asia and its Implications on Indian Interests. First of all, the dissertation will be anchor into a theoretical framework as mentioned above. After analysis of theoretical foundation of the dissertation, a wide range of primary sources i.e., State's leaders annual address to their Parliament, documents of different organizations those are working in Central Asian States, words of different leaders of concerning states. Moreover, official documents, speeches and statements of politicians will be analyzed.

Furthermore, in study for the interpretation of data, qualitative and quantitative data analysis techniques will be used. Analysis of data will be divided into following six stages: -

1. Organization of the data
2. Collecting and structuring ideas and concepts
3. Structuring overarching theme in the data

4. Keeping in mind the reliability and validity of data during analysis and in the findings
5. Searching possible and plausible explanations for findings
6. Writing process (Final Step) (O'Connor & Gibson, 2003).

In fact, the nature of study is mixed. Data regarding Central Asian states for China and Indian role will be analyzed to learn the state behavior. The articles of the renowned journals in the field of international relations related to the topic of study will be a great academic source regarding the analysis of data. Analysis of research reports and books of various think tanks and individual scholars will be done. Discussions with professionals will help in steering the course of dissertation in right direction. Moreover, content analysis of available information in the form of books, journal, and reports and related to China, India and Central Asia will be done.

Method of Study

Method is a procedure, accumulation of techniques or means of doing work which may be generalized and common in diversity of situations. In method there are different systematic steps, planned strategies, ordered phases and other similar process of investigation (Bob & Millman, 1969). In methods there are two types of research for analysis of data one is qualitative and second is quantitative. Qualitative research is also called exploratory research. This research is used to grasp the issues and motivations behind any phenomenon or an event. Qualitative research emphasizes on in-depth investigation and analyzed each perspective while focusing the objective of study. Contrariwise, quantitative research concentrates on counting, statistics and covers mathematical perspective. Quantitative research is covered the quantification of attitude, behaviors and opinions. In it, larger sample population size is used for

generalizations of results. The subject of China's role in Central Asia is built around not only qualitative explanation but also includes quantitative and statistical data. To quantify the attitude of CARs towards Indian approach and by covering the explanation of different events based on cause-and-effect relationships between China and India in Central Asia. This dissertation will be analyzed both qualitative and quantitative or mix method approach of research. Moreover, the nature of the research will be exploratory in which facts will be analyzed.

Reasoning

In term of reasoning there are two classifications of research i.e., inductive and deductive. In inductive research the researcher starts the inquiry of a new phenomenon on which there is no vast literature is available. In inductive research the researcher starts working with the evaluation of a specific issue. The purpose of the evaluation is to understand the general behavior of certain events or phenomenon. In easy words this approach is called bottom-up approach in which the researcher starts with specific observations, identifies uniformities and patterns, in next step the researcher develops tentative hypothesis and finally end work by developing some theories and general conclusions.

In contrast, deductive research begins from more general to more specific. It is called top-down approach where researcher starts the investigation from theory; narrow it down into a hypothesis. The researcher collects the data to test the hypothesis for confirmation or rejection. This research focuses on the China's growing role in Central Asia and its impacts on India on which there are many theoretical explanations are available. So, in this dissertation, theory testing approach will be used to investigate the phenomenon. The deductive reasoning will be used to test existing theories and study will move from general observation to particular. While using deductive approach two theories will be

used to evaluate China's geo-economics interests in Central Asia and its implications on India. As China is rising peacefully and its industry and economy is growing day by day which needs massive reserves of energy. On the same grounds, Central Asia is rich in term of energy resources and attracting the world for their exploration. China and India both are Central Asia's neighboring states and have same interests in this region. China is developing its relations on two things: -

1. Five principles of peaceful co-existence
2. Good Neighboring Policy

These both are giving some advantages to China in compare with India in Central Asia.

Ethics of Research

Research which deals with human or the environment which effect human beings, raises complex ethical, social, legal and political issues. Ethics of research are very dominant when people are involved as participants. In ethics of research there are three objectives; first to protect human beings, second to make it clear that research which is conducted is in a best way securing the interests of individuals, groups and society as whole. Last, to monitor strongly that project or research which is conducting is ethically sound i.e., risk management, security of privacy and the process of informed consent. It can be said that, these are minimum requirements for ethical research which however should be supplemented by a self-critical and self-reflexive stance towards the behavior of a researcher. Research ethics are very vital in overall process of the research. In this study the researcher will kept in mind all the ethics of research during work.

Conclusion

Theoretical foundations are much vital for achieving the objectives of any study. In order to understand the theoretical basis of this study, combinations of two theories i.e., theory of Geo-

Economics and energy security has been used. Research design in any research plays the role like a radar. It guides about every step of the study and if it is implemented with its true spirit than a researcher can timely complete his research.

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