
CHINA'S BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE (BRI): A THREAT OR OPPORTUNITY FOR THE WORLD AND PAKISTAN

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Abstract

Breaking a prolonged silence in the anarchic international arena, China initiated a Big bang infrastructure development program in 2013, containing about 2600 projects with net worth of 3.7 trillion dollars in 140 different countries. This mega project may bring a great change to the developing nations and that's why it is regarded as a great opportunity for the developing world but at the same time it is regarded as a threat to the developed big democracies of the world. This colossal project of China result as a tool for China to be global super power in this multipolar world order which is totally unacceptable to the United States of America. So in this regard G7 countries launched another infrastructure program for the developing world as a counter balance to BRI. Pakistan is a major party to this gigantic project of China through CPEC; the so called flagship project, which worth about 62 billion dollar. This project will be proven as a „ game changer “ for both China and Pakistan if get succeeded in true sense. Pakistan always welcome infrastructure development on its land, In this way Pakistan don't want to indulge itself in Sino-US rivalry or don't want to be a party of another cold war, so it is willing to participate in B3W also. In this paper, I am going to discuss the details about BRI, its projects and policies and also investment in these projects. This paper will provide details about how and why BRI is regarded as a threat for some countries while at the same time it is a great opportunity for developing nations. I will discuss its advantages and opportunities as well as its defects and how Pakistan's is a part of this project and also Pakistan's stance on B3W in this paper. Regarding its defects I mentioned some recommendation after my research findings to achieve its basic objective. It is hoped that the research findings and recommendations will be initialized by the government authorities.

Keywords: China, BRI, B3W, CPEC, Threats, Opportunities, Pakistan.

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Introduction:-

BRI, abbreviated as a „“ belt and road initiative““ is the mega project being raised by China. BRI was initiated in 2013 with speech of the Chinese President Xi Jinping in Kirghizstan in which he said that we want to connect China with central Asia, Middle East, Africa and Europe. It is the world biggest infrastructure project containing roads, railways, highways, bridges, ports and other infrastructure to connect China with the rest of the world based on an ancient silk road. It is the most expensive infrastructure project in the history worth about 3.7 trillion dollars /500 billion USD, containing 2600 projects spreading out through about 140 countries involving approximately 60 percent of the world population. It is a massive trade network and also have a political vision (Omar Shakhkar, 11/2021). The Belt and road initiative basically contain a lot of projects like it could be China building things from scratch, upgrading existing infrastructure, handing out loans or making investment.

BRI consist of two parts; one is Road part and the second is Land routes. Broadly consist of 21st century Maritime Silk Road and the other part consist of land routes. For developing and under developing Nations it's a blessing as for Pakistan which is part of BRI through its flagship project CPEC, but for the developed countries like America its disastrous because China can be rouse up as global power over the success of BRI. To counter BRI world top democracies announced B3W, an infrastructure project worth about 40trillion USD aiming for climate, health security, digital technology and gender equity and equality in developing nations. But B3W is much more doubtful then seen. There is no proper policies and project and no proper planning where and how to use these 40trillion USD.

B3W is going to be the biggest rival of China's BRI starting a new cold war in this modern arena. America launched B3W in its 47th G7 summit to counter China's growing influence in the region declaring its gigantic BRI project as debt distress policy and ineffective. Although BRI is getting influential not only in South Asia and Middle East but also in Europe and Africa. It has 6 special economic zones in different countries i.e. NELBEC, CMREC, CPEC, CCAWAEC, CIPEC, BCIMEC along with other big projects in Central Asia and Europe.

Its 21st century Maritime Silk Road is an interconnection between Asia, Africa, Europe and Middle East through South China Sea and India Pacific Ocean. It has launched about 261 developmental projects in central Asia mainly in Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Until April 2019 almost 125 countries became the participants of BRI among them 37 are the African countries or African unions. It extends to Europe also as the major G7 members Italy and Germany is already a part of BRI as President Xijinning signed 29 MoU with Italy worth about 2.8 billion dollars in transport and port infrastructure projects.

If we take the BRI strategic policies we won't find any confined document about all these 2600 projects and investment report of these 3.7 trillion dollars. They are

building infrastructure in Asia, Africa, Europe and Middle East to get an access to their large markets to sell their goods. But criticism arose over their strategy that BRI is creating economic interdependence and once a country become economic interdependent there will be geostrategic and political effects too. BRI has been criticized over the fact that it's a debt trap diplomacy giving a living example of Sri Lankan port Hambantota which has been given to china for 99 years on lease. Same as the Gawadar Port of Pakistan given to china on 40 years lease. West claim that China would invest billions of dollars in developing countries which they will be unable to repay creating debt trap diplomacy. Second criticism is over its transparency policy. African countries were quite curious about debt trap diplomacy while Chinese official give proper assurance that over late repayment they won't interfere in their internal affairs. Different Chinese companies are investing in BRI. Major players for BRI investment in 2021 were a mix of Chinese SOEs and private companies including Boyu Capital, Alibaba and Jinko Solar etc. Chinese companies who invest in the construction projects in 2021 were; Power China, China Communication Construction and Sinopec. All the companies investing in the BRI construction projects were state owned enterprises (SOEs). (Christophe Nedopil, February 2022).

BRI: A threat or an Opportunity;

How it is regarded as a Threat:-

For China BRI is just a route through which it will trade with the concerned countries and will sell its value added goods. But for west it's a nightmare seeing China as an emerging regional power and call BRI debt trap diplomacy. They call it a non-traditional threat violating its sovereignty.

Another point is that BRI is bilateral in its structure, means apparently it include all 65 nation and connect them but the main center is always China. Other member states are not in a multilateral alliance with each other, multilateral alliance exist only between China and the member states. So, the economic benefit will not be shared between other states as that by the China. There is no clear documentation that how the BRI created capabilities will be utilized, will they be utilized by the member states or they would be dependent on china for their excess?

What if there occur corruption in BRI funding and the member state didn't meet their required goals? What if they are unable to payback their heavy debts and cause debt trap? It will lead to the loss of their control over their own projects as that occurred in the case of Sri Lankan port. These things causes a lot of trouble in understanding BRI. (Narendar Kumar, 2018).

According to the World Bank perception it's a great opportunity for a landlocked countries like central Asian to install rail and road like projects there to give access to the global Market as no other big power is offering such an initiative but again here comes the debt trap diplomacy.

CHINA STRATEGIC GOAL THROUGH BRI:-

The strategic goal that China want to obtain through BRI is twofold. One is, “development of soft power for China’s peaceful and multilateral raise”. And the other is, China’s gradual securitization of the continent in response to United States renewed focus on the Asia Pacific region and the revival of tension on South China Sea”. Chinese government wants continuous economic development of China through BRI by connecting to the under developing nations of the three continents.

RESOURCE ACQUISITION:-

From the above facts, it is quite clear that BRI is a geostrategic initiative that has political, cultural and military influences. China can maintain its economic growth through its resource control and resource acquisition to fuel continuously its industrial growth. BRI participants are resource rich countries and also are capable for the international markets of Chinese goods, here China is ready to exploit these natural resources for its own benefits. It is predicted that the main focus of the BRI is to gain strategic space through strategic communication and economic integration from east to west. It should be noted that BRI is characterized by investments at strategic location, a dual use development model, notable communist party presence, and huge financial control, lack of transparency and unequal benefits.

BRI: A Non-Traditional Security Threat:-

Security thinkers are classified into two major schools – Traditional and Non-Traditional. According to Zafar Nawaz Jaspal & Amir Ullah Khan, “The Traditional security’s advocates are the staunch supporters of military security of the state.” (Khan & Jaspal, 2017:246) According to Dr. Amir Ullah Khan and Dr. Zafar Nawaz Jaspal, “Non-Traditional Security thinkers mainly focus on security of human beings in a broader context rather than only on military security” (Khan & Jaspal, 2015:125) China’s BRI is also regarded as a non-traditional threat for the region and also to the Chinese assets because of its vulnerable policy and ethno-social conflict. Conflict may arise in countries where China and the local government have made investments. Trouble may arise from social confrontation of local and Chinese workers, environmental degradation and lack of corporate responsibility by the Chinese companies. Great challenge for China is making land bridges on central Asian countries, where in Afghanistan there is NATO influence. NATO influence is toward the east while China economic diplomacy is toward the west. And this economic diplomacy and strategy would capture and attract the Eurasia toward China rather than Russia and United states. Although, it may create instability in that region because of the agitation of the locals against China colonization. So, by critics it is regarded as a non-traditional security threat.

Shared Sovereignty:-

China has taken the Sri Lanka port of Hambantota on lease of 99 years. Same is the case of Gwadar port of Pakistan, which has taken on lease of 40 years by Chinese company, confirmed by Pakistan’s minister for ports and shipping, Mr. Hasil Khan.

China invested about \$900 billion dollars on BRI projects across 65 nations. By doing such large investment China would seek control over their shared projects. It's obvious that China would demand shared sovereignty over the BRI shared projects and communication network without any disruption. Later on, if the weaker states were unable to protect the Chinese BRI projects than it will probably make ways for the intervention of Chinese military to protect their projects. So, it would create trouble and will arise question about the sovereignty of the host nations.

Debt Trap Diplomacy:-

Debt trap diplomacy of Chinese leadership through BRI is regarded as irreversible non-traditional threat. Most of the BRI member countries are getting into the unsustainable debt which they will not be able to repay. Major examples are that of Pakistan and Sri Lanka which will be unable to pay these high debts. As that happened with Sri Lanka in case of Hambantota port and in case of Pakistan Gwadar port which is also given on lease of 40 years to China. Same cases may arise in the other BRI member states because of their inability to repay these debts they will lose their sovereignty over their economic rights over these projects.

The so called propaganda of debt trap diplomacy by Chinese government stated that BRI with the aim of manipulative global strategy hand over high loans to the participant nations for developmental projects and once they are unable to repay they will gain leverage over these states. There is also no transparent system for loans as sometimes the loan receiving state are not always sure that to which Chinese authority they are dealing with. One of the great criticism about BRI and its loans is that it didn't provide a proper and transparent documentation about the loans of these projects. (Chatham house, 2021). It is said that, " Chinese firms are extending unfavorable loans that are difficult to repay, these firms are doing so as profit motivated actors exploiting a need of projects and lack of available financing rather than out of pursuit of geostrategic influence".

BRI Implications for United States:-

United States of America established a task force to find out the implication of BRI over America. The task force found out that BRI create a great economic, political, climate change, and security and health issues for America. China will get the traditional high level export and digital infrastructure boosting the global GDP up to \$7.1 trillion leaving USA behind. That arises economic trouble for USA. (Jennifer Hillman and David Sacks, 2021). America observe a high risk due to BRI because this gigantic infrastructure project of BRI will proved to be the China pathway to become global power from the regional power. America don't want to see China as a global super power so they feel threat to their supremacy in the international world and initiated their own great project namely, Build Back Better World abbreviated as B3W. This is a project of \$41 trillion dollar to fulfill the economic needs of the developing nation, somehow same as that of the BRI which fulfill the infrastructure

need of the concerned nations. But unlike BRI there are no proper policies and budgetary system of B3W. (Aljazeera, 2021).

BRI as an Opportunity;

OPPORTUNITY TO REDUCE DIFFERENCES:-

BRI can be proved as a golden opportunity to reduce conflicts between China and other regions. It provides a great vision of economic opportunity among these nations for collective economic growth. Through its transport system and major six corridors it will allow the passage of resource goods and value added products through these countries. This development in the transport infrastructure has led to the cross border trade and investment around the world. It would enhance trade opportunity around these three continents. These corridors and transport system make trade facilitative, making it cheaper and faster. This trade facilitation can also generate new trades and new employments.

Major Benefits:

BRI made a lot of development in trade and infrastructure field like rail and road routes, oil and gas pipelines and energy grids etc. Along these it had a great implications for economic growth, social and environmental impacts, employment generation and financial cooperation. It connects about 65 nations of the world and is expected to create a worldwide trade and investment web and would achieve its main objective of collective economic growth. It will create a global market for the export and import of value added goods and also will help in resource allocation. It will create opportunities for the countries to engage themselves in a global economic market and also to diversify domestic economies.

Connecting the world for Economic development:

BRI is connecting the world for sustainable economic development of their member nations. Some are directly benefited from their projects while some will get beneficial sooner by their infrastructure and development projects. A lot of developing countries will get benefited by BRI linking of economic corridors, sea port and railway network. BRI is connecting the world people by means of political, economic and cultural exchange. Most of the BRI member nations are developing and under developing, so for global future development, infrastructure development should be kept on priority under the BRI. One thing should be done that trade constraint should be removed and investment should be done, trade cost should be reduced and motivating economic development. One of the main goal of BRI is financial integration which can be gained easily by encouraging monetary policy coordination and RMB for trade and investment strengthening cooperation for regional mechanism and managing risk of any financial lose. It can also help in promoting civilization and cultural exchanges by connecting world people through different corridors and other transportation means. (Rasel et al, 2020).

Opportunity for Pakistan:

Pakistan is the close friend of China, it can get benefit from BRI through CPEC. CPEC is regarded as the flagship project of BRI due to which the rest of the BRI participant nation could get assurance of these projects' transparency. CPEC would benefit Pakistan by training and developing manpower (by Dr. Ishrat Husain). Pakistan will get benefit from it in infrastructure development, economy, and employment opportunities etc. But still World Bank and USA warned Pakistan about the debts which Pakistan will be unable to pay back to China. Although regardless of the above concerned threats BRI may help to develop the developing and under developing nations.

Where Pakistan does stands?

Pakistan is a part of BRI projects through China Pakistan Economic Corridor. CPEC is a part of BRI and is regarded as the BRI flagship project. This plane of economic corridor between China and Pakistan was manually started in 2013 when Pakistan's Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif met Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang in Beijing. (Tracker, 2020). On this occasion they discussed about Gwadar Port. In April 2015, on the occasion of Chinese President Xi Jinping visit to Islamabad, CPEC project which at that time worth about \$46 billion dollars was launched which are now envisaged to cover about \$62 billion dollars. CPEC is regarded as the flagship of all BRI project and is the most ambitious project ever in Pakistan's history. (David Sacks, 2021).

CPEC would be a model for the rest of the BRI participants to follow up. Through CPEC China could get an access to Indian Ocean then Pakistan could easily get over its strategic competitor India. Ayub Rehman, Dr. Amir Ullah Khan and Dr. Syed Naeem Badshah are of the view: "India is under the influence of V. D. Savakar's Hindutva which has offensive, belligerent, racist, and undemocratic orientation". (Rehman, Khan, and Badshah; 2021). It is stated by the CPEC official website that. "CPEC is the journey towards economic regionalization in the globalized world". CPEC is regarded as a win-win model. It can transform Pakistan looming economy and can be proven as a game changer for Pakistan as ex-Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif once mentioned. BRI main goal is the "collective economic growth" mean CPEC is beneficial both for China and Pakistan and also the neighboring countries as well.

CPEC Projects:-

CPEC projects have been divided in three terms; long term, midterm and short-term having five special economic zones. CPEC a flagship project of BRI contain a lot of projects like coal power, coal mines, wind powers plants, hydroelectric power plants, solar power plants, special economic zones, ports, railways, highways, metro system, Pakistan's biggest airport and other small projects are also included which has planned to be completed up to 2030, worth about \$62 billion. David Sacks mentioned in his report that, "one fifth of Pakistan's GDP covering dozens of envisioned high profile

projects. Amir Ullah Khan, Zafar Nawaz Jaspal, & Samina Yasmin, stated: "Gwadar Port gained a global strategic significance and considered as one of the most important trade route to gulf region." (Khan, Jaspal, & Yasmin, Samina, 2017: 23) The Derelict Port of Gwadar, located on the Arabian Sea at the mouth of Strait of Hormuz, emerged as CPEC's jewel. China planned to transform it into a modern port, build supporting infrastructure, and establish a free trade zone next to the port. It is regarded as the "game changer" by Pakistan's Ex-Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif.

High level of CPEC funding has been used in coal fired power plants to reduce Pakistan's power shortage. Other projects include a \$7 billion project of railway from Peshawar to Karachi, two min hydropower plants in Kashmir, metro system in Lahore, establishment of special economic zones, Huawei fiber-optic cable running from China to Pakistan. (David Sacks, 2021). CPEC's transport corridor has always been the main focus for international attention as well as in power sector a lot of projects have been completed. According to a report by Merics \$25.5 billion worth of projects has already completed, in which 75% of that projects constitute energy projects. (Tracker, 2020).

Although some of the CPEC projects are stalled due to corruption and terrorist attacks. Pakistan give a fifteen thousand person security force but still that was not enough to prevent terrorist attack. (David Sacks, 2021).

Obstacles In The Way Of CPEC:-

CPEC is regarded as the centerpiece of BRI, expanding in its size since its initiation. It was a project worth about \$25 billion, now it ranges to \$62 billion. CPEC a flagship project in Pakistan represent the all-weather friendship between China and Pakistan and also symbolizing the presence of China in Pakistan. But here are some obstacles in the way of CPEC which may make some trouble in the success way of CPEC. Some incidents that triggered the CPEC are;

- i. Political influence in CPEC projects may make their success uneasy, as in every regime the ruler party is influencing these projects.
- ii. Many of the CPEC projects are incomplete.
- iii. More authority is given to military officers sometimes accused of corruption.
- iv. Separatist and extremist groups are troubling i.e. a blast in Serena hotel of Quetta in 21 April 2021 made trouble because Chinese delegation was staying at the hotel but at that time absent.
- v. Attack over Pakistan stock exchange and firing on Chinese consulate in Karachi in 2018.
- vi. Boni a researcher mentioned in his report that, "CPEC has many problems but still Beijing and Islamabad invested too much money and political capital to turn away from CPEC", he said again that, "China has invested money and credibility in Pakistan

and progress on CPEC sends an important message about the wider state of BRI". (Reid Standish, 2021).

PAKISTAN'S STANCE ON B3W:-

G7 countries recently announced a big plan to launch \$40 trillion dollar program known as Build Back Better world abbreviated as B3W. Its main principles are; value driven, good governance and strong standards, friendly climate, strong strategic partnership, mobilizing private capital through development finance and enhancing the impact of multilateral public financing. (Shakeel Ahmad Ramy, 2021). Although this plan is lunched by Biden administration to counter China gigantic infrastructure program BRI which would results to become China a global super power from a regional power which is totally unaccepted to super power America.

Now if we look at the Pakistan's position in both these big plans then we can see that Pakistan is already a part of BRI projects through CPEC but it is experiencing pressure from America and also western organization to get back from CPEC that it will lead to a debt distress in Pakistan. USA may ask Pakistan to join B3W and get back from CPEC, at that Pakistan should tell the US that Pakistan will not join a new cold war as it had already suffered a lot from cold war and War on terror. (Shakeel Ahmad Ramy, 2021). As Nasim Zehra mentioned in her report to Arab News that, "Washington has been skeptical of Pakistan and China relationship, ranging from the lease of Gwadar port to undertaking China financed CPEC projects, Washington has repeatedly called for sharing project costs, project loans and tendering procedures. Given Pakistan's elaborate relationship with China, Islamabad has largely ignored Washington's urgings". (Nasim Zehra, 2021). Pakistan has always welcomed investment, it should be a part of B3W looking over its economic situation but should accept it with no hard conditions. Pakistan this time should not indulge itself in any cold war.

CRITICISM OVER CPEC:

Some of the main failures of CPEC are;

- 1) Gwadar Port known as the crown jewel of BRI is actually in a very bad situation.
- 2) CPEC planned to build seaport, roads, railways, pipelines, dozens of factories and Pakistan's largest airport but still there is little which have been achieved. Nor the airport nor the factories have been yet completed.
- 3) On Gwadar Port there is no cargo which run from Karachi according to the weekly schedule.
- 4) According to a statement given by government in 2020, less than one third of the CPEC projects have been completed which worth about \$19 billion. This slow process of these projects becomes a factor of criticism.
- 5) Pakistan's economic crisis also triggered these projects like in 2019 Pakistan got \$6billion from IMF.

- 6) Baloch Liberation Army demands for new homeland of Baloch people where in Baluchistan the crown jewel Port Gwadar is located which makes life difficult here.
- 7) According to Johnathan Hillman, " the biggest constraint for china now is its own economy" due to which in many countries, projects are stalled or even cancelled.
- 8) It would cause debt distress for Pakistan, as Washington-based center for Global Development says that these loans from China will cause debt distress, putting at least five nations at high risk and Pakistan is one of them. (Sheridan Prasso, 2020).
- 9) Beijing is trying to get more influence over Islamabad through CPEC and also in other countries which is regarded as accusation by the critics. (Reid Standish, 2021).
- 10) There exist some CPEC stalled projects due to corruption and terrorist attacks in Pakistan.
- 11) China getting more benefits than Pakistan.
- 12) Pakistan economic situation is also alarming, it may put the country in a debt distress as it import materials for the projects. Also after COVID-19 Pakistan's economic situation get more worsened, now it is looking for delay debt repayment and cut the interest rates on loans. (David Sacks, 2021).
- 13) CPEC is regarded to be Beijing's most ambitious project but there arises question that despite of the fact that Pakistan and China had five decades of strong strategic friendship but still China and Pakistan do not match economically. (Kiran Hassan, 2019).

ANALYSIS:-

The relationship between China Pakistan is the main backdoor through which China would become a global power from a regional power because of the geopolitical significance of Pakistan. Pakistan and China long term trade route is not accepted to America and India. (Kiran Hassan, 2019). CPEC would be a humbling experience for China as regardless of the few obstacles and criticism this initiative has still the capability to boost up China-India geostrategic rivalry. David Sacks in his blog mentioned that, „China's construction of telecommunications infrastructure and fiber-optic cables in Pakistan also has the potential to enable Pakistan to crack down on civil liberties and spread Chinese internet governance norms“. (David Sacks, 2021). China need a quick and successful completion of their few prominent projects of BRI to make the first wave of their projects successful, among these keystone projects China Pakistan Economic Corridor is at the top of this list. (Kiran Hassan, 2019).

Now talking about Pakistan stance on B3W, Pakistan should not indulge itself in any cold war and if B3W is full filling the national interest of Pakistan then it should probably join this plan but not in case of hard conditional ties. Pakistan should accept the emerging opportunity which can full fill its economic and infrastructure development, more importantly those opportunities which are offered by BRI and B3W. In addition Mr. Mustafa Syed, Executive Director of Pakistan China institute

give his opinion about international trade diplomacy that Pakistan should welcome developmental projects which meet their national interest. He further said that, “Pakistan should partner with all countries as this partnership will be a win-win for all. However improving security would be imperative as we cannot afford incidents that harm the developmental projects”, he further added that, “B3W is a good initiative in terms of competition although it's too late. However, Pakistan should welcome investment from all countries, especially under these two key global developmental projects”. (SDPI).

Hence in conclusion BRI is seen as a threat for some countries but also an opportunity for other developing and under developing nations. It may lead China to be a great super power that's why it is a threat for western countries especially America but if BRI projects got successful it will help the developing nations to boost up its economy and may help in reducing poverty.

FINDINGS:-

The research with title “BRI; a threat or opportunity” was conducted in comparison with the previous studies. Hence, the first finding of my research is correlated with the previous studies. Previous studies give elaborate details about the projects and policies of BRI and also mentioned that BRI don't have exact list of countries and projects involved. These studies give an approximation of the projects which is about 2600. They didn't provide an exact list of the investment in BRI policies and also don't have proper strategic policies as was discussed by Aljazeera in November 2021. But there are many BRI projects which are operational in present. These researchers mentioned that China invest about 3.7 trillion dollars on BRI projects.

So, from my research I found out that it is in correlation with the previous studies.

BRI is the world biggest infrastructural project which don't have exact number of countries and projects involved but it is operational in many countries mainly that in Central Asian Republics. BRI history is about 2000 years old, it is based on an old ancient silk road which was between China and Arab countries.

Main projects involved in the BRI participant countries are mainly in Asia and Africa. European countries are also a part of the BRI like that of Japan Germany both looking for investment in BRI. Regardless of the fact that BRI doesn't have a proper documentation for its strategic policies, still it is operating in the 65 nations of the world covering about 60% of the world population. It has two routes one is road part and the other is sea routes, known as “strategic Economic belt” and “Maritime Silk road”. It consist of six major corridors and invest huge amount over these projects. Major construction companies of China are involved in the project's investment.

“BRI is a threat for some countries but is also an opportunity for others” is a little contrary to previous studies. Previous studies regarded BRI as a threat to the world order and stability. They stated that it is a debt trap and also violating the sovereignty of the state. It has been said that it doesn't have transparency and there is corruption in these projects. They regarded BRI project as a gateway through which China will

emerge as a superpower and will take hold of the world order by connectivity and dependency over China for development.

BRI may result a threat for a country causing a debt distress but along with its defects it is also a great opportunity for the developing world if get succeeded. I agree with the fact that it would lead China to be super power which is not acceptable to America and introduces a new rival project to BRI which is known as B3W. Previous studies give an example of Sri Lankan Port of Hambantota which has taken by China for 99 years on lease but according to my finding this story was before the emergence of BRI. Although it may cause debt distress but China has not giving any such news about the stalled or delay repayment of the loans. In addition, as African nations were worried about the repayment of the debts but Chinese leadership assured African union that it won't interfere in the internal affairs of the Africa union on delay repayment. So, according to my studies BRI has more advantages than its defects.

The research question is about the position of Pakistan in BRI. The research findings over this topic is a little contrary as well as correlative to the previous studies. Previous researchers have criticized Pakistan's position in BRI as it is a part through CPEC, a flagship project of the BRI. Previous studies called it a debt trap for Pakistan because it is \$62 billion project and Pakistan will be unable to repay these debts. But my research studies about Pakistan position in BRI is little different from previous studies. CPEC is the proof of all-weather friendship between Pakistan and China. It had many developmental and infrastructural projects which will boost up Pakistan struggling economy. Added to this first term of CPEC projects have been completed which worth about \$25 billion. Along with this CPEC is facing corruption and also delaying in its projection. Although CPEC is a good move but repayment of the debts may cause a little trouble because of the Pakistan economic situation. CPEC is a game changer for Pakistan if got success in true sense.

RECOMMENDATIONS:-

On the basis of the above discussion, this project needs to put forward the following policy recommendation for further promotion of the BRI potentials;

To compete with its rival project B3W, it should envision, ensure and monitor the project's labor protection, avoid corruption and gender equality should be pursued. Regarding BRI and B3W, rival of each other these two should be considered complementary to each other and could approve each other's agenda through cooperation.

BRI should reduce conflict and rivalries among states by means of cross border trade and people to people contact.

BRI should make new policies for loans, interest rates and other infrastructure and developmental policies.

China should make a proper policy for the repayment of these loans, so that the propaganda of a debt trap should be avoided. And ensure transparency and accountability.

Friendly environment should be established between members states and surety be given by Chinese banks to bear these projects.

Projects should be speed up for better results.

In case of Pakistan great project CPEC, Pakistan need to negotiate on terms of loans and interest rate to avoid debt trap.

It must be ensured that talking decision about the participation in BRI rival project B3W, Pakistan should take decision very diplomatically avoiding emotions and any political influences and should not be part of any other Cold war.

Pakistan should take decisions regarding its national interest. CPEC would help to develop Pakistan's infrastructure and B3W would develop its gender equality and social protection.

Pakistan should focus on the security of these projects to keep them operational. Doing so, other countries will also be attracted to invest in Pakistan.

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