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## BOOK REVIEW : THE CHINA PAKISTAN AXIS ASIA'S NEW

GEOPOLITICS Introduction1. With both India and China making giant strides in the economic development it is but natural that both giant neighbours will have animosity amongst them. With China aiming for unipolar Asia and multipolar world it comes as no surprise that China will do whatever it takes to contain India in order to maintain its hegemony in the region. So China and Pakistan have shared antagonism with India, In the book "The China Pakistan axis Asia's New Geopolitics" the growing deep friendship between Pakistan and China has extensively been covered and the events / circumstances leading to it.

It also covers the fact as to why China is willing to go any length to support its all-weather friend Pakistan. The book explores China's ties with Pakistan and its relationship history, the Chinese assistance to Pakistan's nuclear weapons programme, extremism in the two countries and how the future might develop as the United States plans to move out of Afghanistan. The Author2. Andrew Small works as a senior transatlantic fellow with German Marshall Fund of the United States.

He worked extensively on foreign and economic policy issues concerning China. He is presently settled in Washington D. C.

His pieces of work have been published in Foreign Affairs, the New York Times, Foreign Policy, and the Washington Quarterly, various journals, magazines and newspapers. This book China-Pakistan Axis: Asia's New Geopolitics is his first piece of work. Andrew Small studied at University of Oxford. 3. During the course of writing this book Andrew Small could seek

audience with various officials of China and Pakistan . Though they did not divulged any state secret but gave a good insight into the subject and book has been based on those conversations /interviews. The Book4.

The book's introduction is followed by eight chapters and an epilogue. The book covers insights on Beijing's close, shrouded in mystery, and complexities with Islamabad , based and founded on a shared enmity with India. In the first chapter the author dwells on the fact that how the three wars of 1962 , 1965 and 1971 played a role in fostering this all weather friendship between China and Pakistan in general and Sino-India 1962 war in particular. The wars and then the regional geo politics drove China towards Pakistan. During two Indo - pak wars Pakistan would have hoped for the intervention from china but the clear non-intervention during 1971 war despite Pakistan's repeated request suggest that the friendship may not be as all-weather as Pakistan would have hoped. It also brings into focus some lesser known aspects about China's assistance to Pakistan's use of nonstate actors as an instrument of national and military strategy as well as their support to fomenting trouble in north eastern India among the Mizos and Nagas.

5. In chapter two the author covers the aspect of china's assistance to Pakistan's nuclear programme and the material that Pak nuclear scientists needed to build the bomb. Pakistan also would handover sensitive US military technology whatever it could lay its hands to China. Pakistan also acted as China's gateway to the west specially United States during its years of diplomatic isolation.

The nature of Sino-Pak ties has geopolitics and arms at the core of their partnership, and nuclear weapons at the heart of their military relationship. The next chapter deals with how China is trying to re-hyphenate India and Pakistan despite United States best efforts to deescalate the tensions between the two nuclear powers. It serves Chinese purpose to keep the Indo-Pak pot simmering. 6.

The next three chapters deal with Chinese own concerns regarding its own war on home grown terrorism i. e. Uyghur Insurgency and The author covers Afghanistan aspect in the chapters on the Chinese War on Terror, Trade across the roof of the world, and Tea with the Taliban, .

It confirms that China has been the only country besides Pakistan which has maintained a continuous relationship with the top leadership of the Taliban. This also covers the aspect of not wanting either the USA or the Taliban to win, and to an extent of dealing with all sides.. China has been worried about the fallout of the lack of stability in Afghanistan in the post US pull out phase. Once it was clear that the prospect of US withdrawal was real, China sees a bigger role for itself in the region. With the emergence of Pakistan as the principal connection for the Xinjiang extremists to international terrorist networks, and again as the country which will face the spill over of instability in Afghanistan, stabilising its western periphery has become a higher priority for Beijing.

7. China sees Pakistan at the heart of its grand strategy to extend interconnectivity throughout its western borders with massive state funded investments. In its lookout for allies in facilitating its global power projection,

China wants Pakistan as the real friend and its gateway to Arabian sea .

China is investing heavily in the projects of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), where it has pledged \$62 billion over the next few years.

China expects the Pakistani government and army to iron out any complications coming in the way of a successful execution of the initiative.

China is also trying to diversify its energy routes and reducing its dependence on the South China sea. Physical attributes 8.

The book is paperback edition with 201 pages from introduction to epilogue and is reasonably priced at Rs 399 . The book is divided into eight chapters apart from prologue . introduction and epilogue.

Each chapter is relevant , lucid and a separate read in itself . The notes to the chapters and the index are clearly and well written. Conclusion 9.

The book has been able to clearly bring out the circumstances which led to the formation of this new political as well as military entente. Though both sides claim that their friendship with each other is of the status of higher than the highest mountain but at the same time China is also aware of the challenge of dealing with a country that is both the greatest source of terrorist threats and a crucial partner in combating it. The book finally points out that China would like to see the India-Pakistan relationship in a state of mistrust, where tensions can be addressed bilaterally, economic ties may take off despite political tensions while averting the full scale war.

But the fact remains that , “ Pakistan is a central part of China’s transition from a regional to a global one...and a beneficiary of the new Chinadriven geopolitical and geo economic context” .