**The Chinese World**

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When life throws lemon, make it lemonade or the more you sweat in peace the less you bleed in war. Crisis brings opportunities with itself conditional to the capacity of the dealer. The Chinese world is the outcome of the multilayered presence of Beijing in different fields of life be that of political, economic or mediation between the warring parties. The growing influence of China in the sphere of technology adds another feather to the cap of its honour.

China under Xi is enjoying a long distanced presence in economic and trade areas across the continental world. Above all, the recent version of the Chinese world has unveiled itself in the shape of a mediator and somewhere as a facilitator which has turned into its diplomatic heavyweight. The two long-standing rivals which had put the Middle Eastern region on hot bad of geopolitical wrestling have been brought closer to each other as a result of the deal brokered between them with the help of Beijing a couple of weeks ago. This has enhanced the credibility of the Chinese world.

It might be mentioned here that the said world is not exempted from challenges. The most dangerous among all is the opposition by the West. Though the global power rivalry has badly influenced the geopolitical chessboard and affected many countries’ ways of action, one must be in a responsible position when one approaches it. Thus, a country like Pakistan must behave at per with their national interests. Thus, it might be challenging for Pakistan to draft and devise an approach to exploit the Chinese world. But it must adopt a mature step toward it in accordance with the demand of time.

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The reformist China stamped on the progress of China which had pervaded each way of life. This raised the status of China in the rank of the global powers. Gradually, Beijing kept exerting its undeniable influence on various aspects of life. The most notable thing is that China has learned from its past under Mao and vehemently followed the China of Deng. The latter introduced liberalism with Chinese traits, to China to unleash its progress which later on proved valid. Such a controlled model kept working during the later periods.

The Xi world has revolutionized this approach. It has provided China with a mounting influence of growing economic presence which triggers its liability for others, diplomatic heavyweight granting external credibility to Beijing, regional and global integration and provision of soft power among others.

One of the prominent features of the Chinese world is its phenomenal economic strength. The projects like BRI are serving on multiple fronts among which the reconstruction of physical and energy infrastructure stands prominent. The said projects offer development in the areas of physical infrastructure, energy production, employment opportunities and economic growth. For instance, its flagship CPEC aims so. The BRI project is linking almost four continents which in turn contributes to local development as well as the regional and inter and intra-continental linkage. All this is enhancing the Chinese world’s reliability and credibility. The said project also consists of spreading rail tracks and optic fibre thereby updating the traditional-cum-new means of communication.

The Chinese economic world stretches on a durable bilateral and multilateral partnership layer. One can hardly ignore the role of Beijing in the development of economic opportunities in a plethora of countries across the globe. The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank serves as an alternative to the West-led IMF. Above all, the bilateral trade agreements like the China-Iran deal and China-Pakistan Economic Corridor among others and multilateral trade partnerships in the form of BRI projects, the Asian Infrastructure Bank among others bring about a win-win situation for China.

Similarly, the diplomatic heavyweight of China has been of phenomenal importance over the past more than a decade. The role of Beijing to bring the warring parties to the dialogue table and eventually brokering a deal for installing peace and normalizing bilateral ties can hardly be ignored. This role has currently flourished by brokering the deal between the arch-rivals KSA and Iran whose rivalry has been the key reason for the boiling Middle Eastern region, e.g., the Syrian and Yemen crises. The Chinese reiterated their wish for a peaceful political settlement to the Russia-Ukraine standoff holds some water. Next to this list of facilitation and mediation might be the effort to bring the long-standing rivals India and Pakistan to the dialogue table thereby giving an end to their long-standing rivalry. However the latter might be challenging while keeping the Sino-India rivalry in view.

The Chinese way is also heading towards regional and global integration. The China-Iran-Russia troika centring around anti-West and even anti-US narrative is expanding its sphere even to the Middle East crevassing the gulf to bring in its orbit one of the key powers in GCC and even in the Muslim World-Saudi Arabia. The growing influence of SCO is roaring and many a country is aspiring to join it. The long list of awaited countries to join the BRICS is also unveiling the fact that the Chinese effort at an external level to trigger regional and global integration holds some phenomenal significance which may also contribute to promoting amiable relations between the member states.

It would be unjust if the modernity in the Chinese world is not harped on. China is sharing the space with other stakeholders of the tech world order. Beijing is performing exceptionally well in the fields of Information Technology and Artificial intelligence thereby enhancing the credibility of China. Likewise, this might be a celebrated urge for many, mostly for the gurus of Western liberal political order to criticize the Chinese version of democracy and the political system overall. But it has also been lauded by many. Many a sceptic defines the Chinese political model as a controlled Western liberal democracy. The said system is an amalgamation of Western and Chinese traits of the political system. Despite the popular criticism over the controlled model, the Chinese politico-economic regime is succeeding in cracking its ways to many political set-ups. Though much similar, the Arab political world is largely being brought under the magic spell of the Chinese system. The critics term this to be the outcome of the apparent successful nature of the Chinese model. Thus, this is also contributing to enlarging the sphere of the Chinese way.

Wrapping up the peripheries of the Chinese World, the fact is unveiled that when time is properly exploited, it turns upside down and pays back. For instance, there was a zenith in the prevailing Western order at the end of the Soviet Union, but the dawn of the Chinese world disrupted the unchallenged existence of the Western politico-economic regime. This also uncovers another fact that a thing with a possible and positive outcome is more attractive than one which is just exaggerated to be so. China is influencing the world by its practical results. This is the reason due to which countries are rushing towards it without daring to question its credibility, reliability and moral nature. Thus, action speaks louder than words.

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# China—The Trustworthy Partner

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Foreign ministers of China and Afghanistan were on a two-day visit to Islamabad for trilateral talks to discuss the security situation in Afghanistan and the region. The agenda also included thrashing out ways and means to promote stability in Afghanistan as well as the avenues for strengthening cooperation between the three countries in this regard. At the end of the trilateral talks China and Pakistan announced that they would stand with each other in the future decades like they have done in the past to ensure peace and stability in the region especially Afghanistan as it remained vital to the socio-economic prosperity connectivity and development in the region.

Both China and Pakistan pledged to work together to actively support and help Afghanistan in its economic reconstruction. However, it was felt that to facilitate the envisaged process Afghanistan needed to take seriously the security concerns of its neighbours by putting in place strong measures to counter various terror forces within Afghanistan. In their view, it was essential to live in harmony with its neighbours. They agreed to continue humanitarian and economic assistance for the Afghan people and enhance development cooperation at the same time emphasizing the need for international community to provide continued assistance and support to Afghanistan including through unfreezing its overseas financial assets.

The tri-lateral dialogue was a significant step in the backdrop of the obtaining security situation in the region particularly in Afghanistan, which is also affecting the neighbouring countries. China has made huge investments in the infrastructure development in Afghanistan and Pakistan also needs stability in that country for an effective connectivity with Central Asian State. It is pertinent to mention that more than any other country, Pakistan needs peace in Afghanistan which is also linked to peace within its own territory. It has been persistently making efforts to promote stability in Afghanistan at the bilateral and multilateral forums. Afghanistan also needs the cooperation of its neighbours to restore normalcy and rebuild the destroyed infrastructure. Peace in Afghanistan would be a win-win situation for all the stakeholders.

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The positive outcome of event was that the Afghan foreign minister during the talks and in his interaction with COAS General Asim Munir appreciated Pakistan;s support for the people of Afghanistan and acknowledged the important role that Pakistan continues to play in facilitating peace and development in Afghanistan. He expressed his desire to work closely with Pakistan to promote regional stability and prosperity. From the foregoing development it can be safely inferred that the dialogue has produced a positive outcome.

China and Pakistan in their bilateral talks as usual reaffirmed their support for each other in regards to issues of vital concern to them. Pakistan expressed support for China on all its core issues including One-China Policy, Taiwan, Tibet, Xinjiang, Hong Kong and South China Sea. China on its part appreciated Pakistan’s efforts to fight terrorism, its position on IIOJ&K and also thanked Pakistan for the measures that it took to provide security to the Chinese personnel working on CPEC projects. That indeed was a reiteration of their being on one page in regards to these issues which is imperative to send an unequivocal message to the world in regards to the solidarity between the two countries on those issues. The bilateral talks covered the whole range of relations between the two countries with both sides promising to enhance their cooperation in all those domains.

In the joint presser with his Chinese counterpart foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto expressed gratitude to China for its generous and timely assistance when the country was grappling with the headwinds in a global economy and reiterated that Pakistan remained against bloc politics or great power competition of any kind. At the same time he acknowledged that CPEC remained a shining example of the BRI which has accelerated socio-economic development, job creation and improvement of the people’s livelihood in Pakistan.

Chinese foreign minister expressed firm support for Pakistan’s sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity as well as its unity, stability and economic prosperity and said that China would as always work with Pakistan through the platform of CPEC, align development strategies of both countries and share China’s development opportunities and build an even closer China-Pakistan Community with a shared future. It is hard to take an issue with what the Chinese foreign minister said in the context of bilateral relations between the two countries. China has always stood with Pakistan and played a very pivotal role in its economic development and enhancement of its defence capability which is an undeniable reality.

China has made huge investments in CPEC projects and of late it has also indicated its willingness to build a rail link between Kashghar and Gawadar costing $ 58 billion. When a country makes such huge investments it surely wants peace and stability in the country where investments are made or are likely to be made to achieve the desired objective of the effort.

China is a trustworthy partner of Pakistan. The two countries have an exemplary friendship which has withstood the vicissitudes of time and maintained uninterrupted upward graph. The relations signify impregnable brotherly amity. China undoubtedly is a well-wisher of Pakistan and it was surely in that context that the Chinese foreign minister said” China sincerely hopes Pakistan political forces can get together and overcome issues of political stability so that they can grow on the economic front together with us. Unless there is internal stability in Pakistan CPEC projects cannot move ahead”

Nobody in his right mind can deny the desirability of political stability as a catalyst to socio-economic development. When the suggestion comes from an iron-brother it needs to be appreciated and taken in the same spirit. The effort by some circles to construe it as interference in Pakistan’s internal affairs is the most preposterous proposition. Equally hypocritical is the stance taken by a political party that what the Chinese foreign minister said was endorsement of its stance in regards to the permeating situation in the country. China would be the last country to say anything reflecting partisan views about prevailing situation in the Pakistan. It was the expression of a wish by the iron brother to see political stability in Pakistan without which one cannot even conceive of economic development. Those trying to do politics on the statement of the Chinese foreign minister must resist their propensity to politicize everything and seeing them from their own standpoint instead of giving an honest perspective on them.

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