

A STUDY ON CHINA'S ONE BELT- ONE ROAD INITIATIVE

Fidel Rahmati¹, Dr. Mohd. Akhter Ali², M.Kamraju³

*Research Scholar¹, Assistant Professor², Student³
Department of Geography
Osmania University
Hyderabad, Telangana-500007*

ABSTRACT

In 2013, China launched an ambitious project called One Belt and One Road. It contains two parts: the “Maritime Silk Road” Initiative and the “Silk Road” Economic Belt. The project was initiated on 28 March 2015 which is an ambitious Eurasian strategy of an emergent power by the Republic of China. The One Belt One Road Initiative links China to the rest of the world which invested a large amount of capital. Unfortunately, it faces so many constraints at the national, regional, and international levels. In this paper, our focus is on constraints which China is facing at the global level. In this context, we are using mostly secondary data from various sources like; international reports, journals, books, authentic internet sources, and related manuscripts. The outcome of the paper will be helpful for academicians related to geopolitical studies, security, global and international policies.

Keywords: *Silk Road, Maritime, China-USA, Geopolitics, Security.*

Introduction

The “Belt and Road Initiative” is a huge project to connect several continents together; Asia, Europe and Africa. In another word, it links China to Central Asia, Russia, Europe, Persian Gulf and the Mediterranean Sea through Central Asia and the Indian Ocean. The project first introduced in the Kazakhstan in a speech delivered by the President of China as the Strategic vision with the collaboration of China and Central Asia on 2013.

Moreover, the president Xi Pinging, spoke on 21st Century Maritime Silk Road which is to develop maritime cooperation between China and rest of the world especially, Europe and Africa continents. For that purpose the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) was established to finance the budget¹.

In addition to that, China initiated the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) on the same year for thriving the connectivity through infrastructure among neighboring countries.

In 2014 the China –Pakistan Economic Corridor was introduced where connect Baluchistan of Pakistan via Pak Occupied Jammu and Kashmir which India was opposing it.

As of 2015 almost 21 countries contributed as the founding members of the AIIB which is hosted in the Beijing city of the China. In that China contributed \$40 billion for constructing infrastructure, resources, industrial cooperation, financial cooperation and other related project in the stakeholder countries along the Belt and Road².

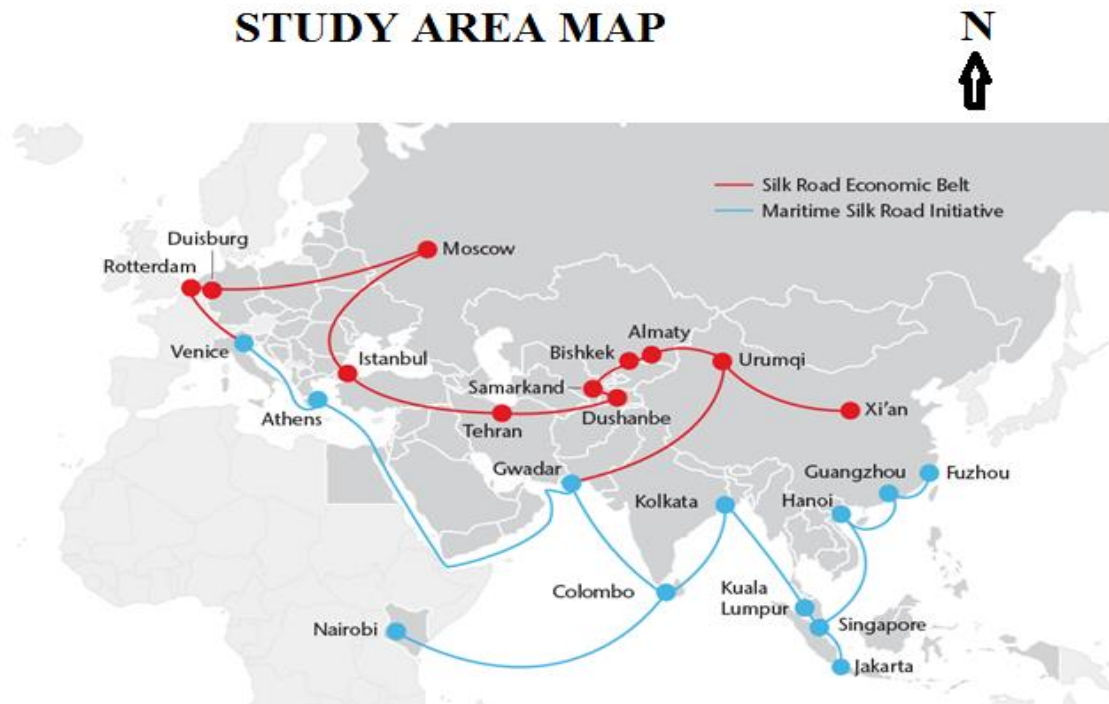
STUDY AREA

The One Belt one Road (OBOR) is a global development strategy initiated by Chinese government on 2013 which encompasses almost 70 countries and international organizations of the world. The project has two types of linkages; the Silk Road Economic Belt and Maritime Silk Road.

¹ http://english.www.gov.cn/news/top_news/2015/04/20/content_281475092566326.htm, retrieved 2010.

² Ibid.

It is really a kind of China – centered world trading network and supposed to be completed by 2049 which will be coinciding with the 100th anniversary of the People’s Republic of China³.



Source: <https://theonebrief.com/chinas-global-ambition-balancing-opportunities-and-risks-in-one-belt-one-road/>

OBJECTIVE

The main objective of this paper is to study the global challenges of One Belt One Road.

DATA AND METHODOLOGY

In analyzing this paper, we have used secondary data such as books, published journals, Newspapers, e-books, e-journal and authentic websites.

BRIEF LITERATURE REVIEW

There are many studies related to One Belt One Road Initiative but mostly they were focusing on economic aspect and cooperation between global powers. As far as the reality is concern the great powers are opposing the project due to its changing the status –que situation.

China has launched a giant project which secure its national interest in the long run but at the same time it will cost security threat to other nations. So, regarding this study we had gone through following literature reviews.

Rahmati, F. et.al (2020) in their paper “A Study on India-China Current Geopolitical Issues and Implication” major significant issue between Republic of China and India is boundary question. Their bilateral relations and has perpetually been a challenge to the knowledge of the leaders of each countries⁴.

³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Belt_and_Road_Initiative, retrieved-2020.

Yuxiang, H, (2019), "Impact of China's One Belt One Road Initiative at Different Geographical Scales." China's One Belt One Road (OBOR) proposed in 2013 in order to improve connectivity and integrating economies across the countries. Geographically it encompasses three level global, regional and national. In the international level created a competition over global lead, at the regional presenting economic corridors infrastructures, multilateral trade, strengthening cultural relations and at the local level building land port, significant node of transition along economic corridors⁵.

Andreas, G; Li, Y (2018), discusses a kind of integrated old and new regionalism for attracting foreign investments and to increase their leverage in international trade negotiations. The main goal of the project is to promote connectivity, creating strong partnership and set up multidimensional networks⁶.

Lonela Pop, I (2016), in a paper entitled, Strengths and Challenges of China's "One belt, one road" Initiative, focus on China's medium and long term goals which includes; political stability, economic growth, developed reform, enhance its soft power, energy security, strengthening its relations with neighboring and rest of the world⁷.

Yiping, H. in his paper (2016), "Understanding China's Belt & Road initiative: motivation, framework and assessment." Discusses the project significance and its greatness on international economic ambition covering sub regions in Asia, Europe and Africa which to gather encompassed 64 % of world population and 30% of world GDP. The project is a comprehensive one, includes policies, financial support and people to people exchange⁸.

From the above reviews we can summarize that most of the reviews concern to collaboration and cooperation between the participating nations but as far is reality shows, many global powers are against the OBOR initiative which is aiming the development and growth of Republic of China (China Centered Scheme).

ANALYSIS

From the below table one and table two it seem that most of the global nations are relying on China for their trade, USA 20 percent, Hong Kong 11 percent, Japan 6.5 percent, Germany and South Korea 4.5 and 4.1 percent respectively. But China is less dependent on all these countries as China imports only 9.7 percent from USA, Japan 8.8 percent, Singapore 8.7 and South Korea and Germany, 6.2 and 3.3 respectively.

The data shows that there is 10.03 percent of trade deficit between USA and china.

So, we can say that USA is more dependent on China compare to other nations.

This can really create a sense of trade supremacy for China over USA and another nations.

Because of this USA is putting pressure on its allied nations to not join the OBOR initiative.

Table 1 Top Ten Exporting countries of China through OBOR

Country	Percentage	Country	Percentage
USA	20	Vietnam	2.9
Hong Kong	11	India	2.9
Japan	6.5	France	2.2
Germany	4.5	Russia	1.8
South Korea	4.1	Netherlands	1.8

Source: UN Statistics Division

⁴ Rahmati, Fidel, Mohd Akhter Ali, and M. Kamraju. "A STUDY ON INDIA-CHINA CURRENT GEOPOLITICAL ISSUES AND IMPLICATIONS." *International Journal of Scientific Research in Engineering and Management (IJSREM)* (2020).

⁵ Hou, Yuxiang. "Impact of China's One Belt One Road Initiative at Different Geographical Scales." (2019).

⁶ Grimmel, Andreas, and Yuan Li. *The belt and road initiative: A hybrid model of regionalism*. No. 122/2018. Working Papers on East Asian Studies, 2018.

⁷ Pop, Irina Ionela. "Strengths and challenges of China's "One belt, one road" Initiative." *Centre for Geopolitics and Security in Realism Studies* (2016).

⁸ Huang, Yiping. "Understanding China's Belt & Road initiative: motivation, framework and assessment." *China Economic Review* 40 (2016): 314-321.

Table 2 Top Ten Importing countries from China through OBOR

Country	Percentage	Country	Percentage
USA	9.7	Malaysia	2.8
Japan	8.8	Thailand	2.6
Singapore	8.7	Russia	2.5
South Korea	6.2	Saudi	1.9
Germany	3.3	India	0.9

Source: UN Statistics Division

Chinese products has a huge global markets because of its reasonable price, but the situation drastically changed after the COVID-19 Pandemics as most of the countries along with USA are trying to be self-dependent among themselves excluding China⁹.

GREAT POWERS INTEREST ON OBOR

The implementation of the One Belt One Road is going to change the status –quo of power politics in the global and regional stages that is why the rivalries of the great powers in the OBOR region will be increased much more due to emerging powers. Great power competition in the OBOR region will follow a normal trend, the essence of which is the shift between emerging powers and conservative powers.

The USA and Russia are playing a major role as a hegemonic country. They have a great interest and have a certain influence on the various security challenges in the region.

At present the USA and China relations are going deteriorated due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and trade war. There is China's development "Zero-sum" next to US global hegemony.

Also, China is having territorial conflicts with 18 countries which the USA has a historical influence on those countries except North Korea and Russia. That structure is creating a "security dilemma" between China and the conflicting nations like; Japan (the two island conflicts in South China sea; Senkako and Ryukyu), South Korea (whole territorial claim-Yuan dynasty), North Korea and Laos (whole territorial claim-Yuan dynasty), Brunei (conflict with Islands), Indonesia, Russia (1.6 lacs Sq.Km), Tajikistan (historical claim quin dynasty), Hong Kong, Vietnam (historical claim-Ming dynasty), India (Aksai Chin, Ladakh, and Arunachal Pradesh), Nepal (Part of Tibet), Philippines, Singapore, and Taiwan (South China Sea conflict), Cambodia (historical claim Ming dynasty) and Bhutan (Chinese claim on Dyangmar, Sanmar and Gerso places).

Because of it most of the nations are in a dilemma to join OBOR or to opt-out of the Republic of China's prestigious project.

As per the report of the Australian Financial Review, it is looking for an alternative Scheme and policy for China's OBOR initiative and probably most of the anti-OBOR nations are in support of this alternative idea. The frontrunners of the proposal are India, USA, and Japan.

CONCLUSION

Form the above analysis we can conclude that the One Belt One Road Initiative has a prominent role for the development of the Eurasian continents if great powers and stakeholders of the projects work together, gradually it will strengthen the base of the nations economically and politically. It is also the responsibility of China to look forward to the national interest of other nations parallel to its own which will in the long run be helpful for the mutual interest and collaboration of the countries. This scenario will not only safeguard China's national interest but also prevent the geopolitical conflicts between the nations.

As of now, the OBOR initiative has put a hold because of the COVID-19 Pandemic as most of the nations are condemning Chinese involvement for the anthropogenic disaster.

⁹ AKHTER ALI, MOHD & KAMRAJU, M. & WANI, AHMAD. (2020). AN ANALYSIS ON IMPACT OF BANNING CHINA GOODS TO INDIA. 09. 1111-1114.

Finally, we can say that OBOR will be a good initiative if China respects other stakeholders' interests which subsequently ensures the Republic of China's benefit.

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