

**CPEC AND THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF
BALOCHISTAN: CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS**

By

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A THESIS SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE

REQUIREMENT

FOR THE DEGREE OF

MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY

Department of International Relations

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES



National University of Modern Languages, Islamabad

August, 2022

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Table of Contents

THESIS/DISSERTATION AND DEFENCE APPROVAL FORM	i
CANDIDATE DECLARATION FORM	ii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	v
DEDICATION	vi
ABBREVIATIONS	vii
ABSTRACT	ix
Introduction	2
Statement of the Problem	4
Objectives of the Study	5
Research Questions	5
Literature Review	5
Theoretical framework	10
Research Methodology	18
Significance of the Study	18
Delimitations	19
Organizational Structure	18
CHAPTER- 1 The Socio-Economic Landscape of Balochistan...	21
1.1 Geographical Existence of Balochistan and its Significance	22
1.2 Socio-Economic Landscape of Balochistan	25
1.4 Natural Resources	31
1.5 Gwadar port	33
1.6 Dearth of Economic Autonomy and Control over Resources	36
CHAPTER-2 China Pakistan Economic Corridor and Balochistan	43
2.1 An Overview of China-Pakistan Relations	43
2.2 Cpec and its Significance for Balochistan	45
2.3 Nature of CPEC	51
2.4 The Scope and Significance of Cpec Project for Balochistan	57
CHAPTER-3 CPEC and the Socio-Economic Development of Balochistan: Internal and External Challenges	62
3.1 Internal Factors	64
3.2 External Challenges	75

CHAPTER-4 CPEC and the Prospects of Socio-Economic Development of Balochistan:	
The Way Forward	81
4.1 Improving Educational Access Through Skilled Labour.....	84
4.2 Employment Generation in Various Sectors.....	88
4.3 Increased Spatial and Intra-sectoral Connectivity.....	91
4.4 Increased Agricultural Efficiency	96
4.5 CPEC and the Potential for Mineral Processing in Balochistan	97
4.6 Increase in Social Welfare Development.....	98
4.7 Modernizing Governance Modalities and Political legitimacy in Balochistan	99
4.8 Paving the Way for Political Cohesion.....	103
The Way Forward	106
Human rights approach for resolution of Balochistan issues.....	107
Social Developmental approach: or society-centric approach	110
Political climate Environment.....	110
Use of soft power against insurgencies	114
Rule of Law	118
Conclusion.....	120
Findings	121
Recommendations	122
Bibliography	116

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Foremost, i would like to thank Allah (SWT) the Almighty for letting me to accomplish my thesis. His blessings let me finish my degree and I will keep on trusting Him for my future.

This journey would not have been possible without the support of my parents, professors, mentors, siblings, and friends. I am especially grateful to my parents who supported me emotionally, financially, always believed in me, and wished the best for me.

I would like to express my special gratitude and thanks to my supervisor Ms. Pashmina Mughal for imparting her knowledge and expertise in this study. I am highly indebted to teaching faculty for their guidance throughout my degree.

I am also thankful to my niece Naufal Fatima, whose babbling and desirous behavior to watch cartoons always kept me refreshed during the tiring moments.

SIBGHAT ULLAH BAJWA

DEDICATION

Dedicated to my parents, whose guidance, support and prayers turns impossibilities into possibilities.

ABBREVIATIONS

BRI	Belt and Road Initiative
BJP	Bharatiya Janata Party
BRICS	Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa
BCIM	Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor
BLA	Balochistan Liberation Army
CARS	Central Asian Republic States
CPEC	China-Pakistan Economic Corridor
CBMs	Confidence Building Measures
CARICC	Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre
CCA	Cultural Cooperation Agreement
CMREC	China-Mongolia-Russia Economic Corridor
CASA	Central Asia-South Asia
CAS	Central Asian States
CNPC	China National Petroleum Corporation
EAEU	Eurasian Economic Union
ETIM	East Turkestan Islamic Movement
FATA	Federally Administrated Tribal Areas
IPRI	Islamabad Policy Research Institute
IPI	Iran-India-Pakistan
IOK	Indian-Occupied Kashmir
ISI	Inter-Services Intelligence
ISIS	Islamic State of Iraq and Syria
INSC	International North-South Corridor
IS	Islamic State
JLC	Jiangxi Copper Company
J&K	Jammu and Kashmir
JeM	Jaish-e-Mohammad

LeT	Lashkar-e-Taiba
LeJ	Lashkar-e-Jhangvi
LoC	Line of Control
METCP	Multilateral Economic and Trade Cooperation Program
MSR	Maritime Silk Road
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MCC	Metallurgical Group Corporation
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
OBOR	One Belt, One Road
OIC	Organization of Islamic Countries
PLA	People Liberation Army
PoW	Prisoner of War
QCG	Quadrilateral Coordination Group
RSS	Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh
RAW	Research and Analytical Wing
RATS	Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SAPTA	SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement
SAFTA	South Asian Free Trade Area
SCO	Shanghai Cooperation Organization
SCO-ACG	SCO-Afghan Contact Group
SREB	Silk Road Economic Belt
TTP	Tehreek-e-Taliban
TAPI	Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India
UN	United Nations
UNODC's	United Nations Offices on Drugs and Crimes
USSR	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

ABSTRACT

Asia was once a trade route for the world and entire world used silk route for locomotion of goods in the past. In 2013, China announced revival of ancient Silk route under Belt and road initiative (BRI) initiative with an aim to connect China with seventy-eight countries across the globe. China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is one of the six corridors of BRI. CPEC connects Pakistan's coastal city Gwadar with Xinjiang province of China. CPEC has positively added value to the already existing geo-strategic importance of Pakistan, and Balochistan province in particular. The present research underscores the role of CPEC in uplifting the socio-economic condition of Balochistan, and challenges lying in mainstreaming CPEC projects in the province. The research has highlighted the internal dynamics of social organization of Baloch society and socio-economic issues, as well as the role of anti-Pakistan actors in sabotaging the CPEC projects to refrain Pakistan from attaining perpetual social stability and economic prosperity. This research aims to explore and comprehend the project's internal and external issues and offers policy suggestions for resolving them. In order to ensure the success of CPEC, it is important to comprehend the nature and possible consequences of significant difficulties in Balochistan, such as insurgency, extreme religious terrorism, and external assistance for such elements. This research outlines the obstacles that CPEC will encounter and suggests policy measures to address them, providing insight into the issues that need to be resolved for the project to be successful.

INTRODUCTION

China Pakistan Economic Corridor is an economic infrastructural project, valued around \$62 billion, up from \$46 billion previously estimated.¹ This is a connectivity project linking Chinese Xinjiang Province to the Pakistani port city of Gwadar. The project includes modern transport networks, energy projects, and special economic zones, to facilitate both Pakistan and China on one hand and the connecting regional countries on the other. It also aimed to quickly enhance Pakistan's infrastructure and bolster its economy. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a defining characteristic under the megaproject "Belt and road initiative" (BRI). The concept of OBOR was initiated in 2013, proposing a number of economic linkages, overland and maritime, connecting China to the rest of Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and the Europe.² The 3,000 km-long CPEC project, which would cost \$45.6 billion, would run from China's Xinjiang province and end at Gwadar Port in the Balochistan Province of Pakistan.³ The CPEC is intended to be a network of interconnected projects, involving Chinese investments in Pakistan's poor province Balochistan. Particularly, the building of the Gwadar Port has become the most required development projects once completed, the port would significantly benefit the local community, and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor would provide new prospects for the Baloch people.

Gwadar is expected to develop into an economic hub and eventually contribute to the development of the whole province in order to address Balochistan's myriad economic and social challenges. The projects include, building airports, and roads to have smooth connectivity. It also aimed at building Pakistan's IT and energy industries to comply with China for the fulfillment of CPEC projects. Balochistan is rich in mineral resources, and also possesses good human resource.⁴ After the inception of CPEC, the Chinese companies in collaboration with the local government have focused on the mining industry which has resulted in employment generation. Balochistan's micro- and medium-sized companies have contributed to the general

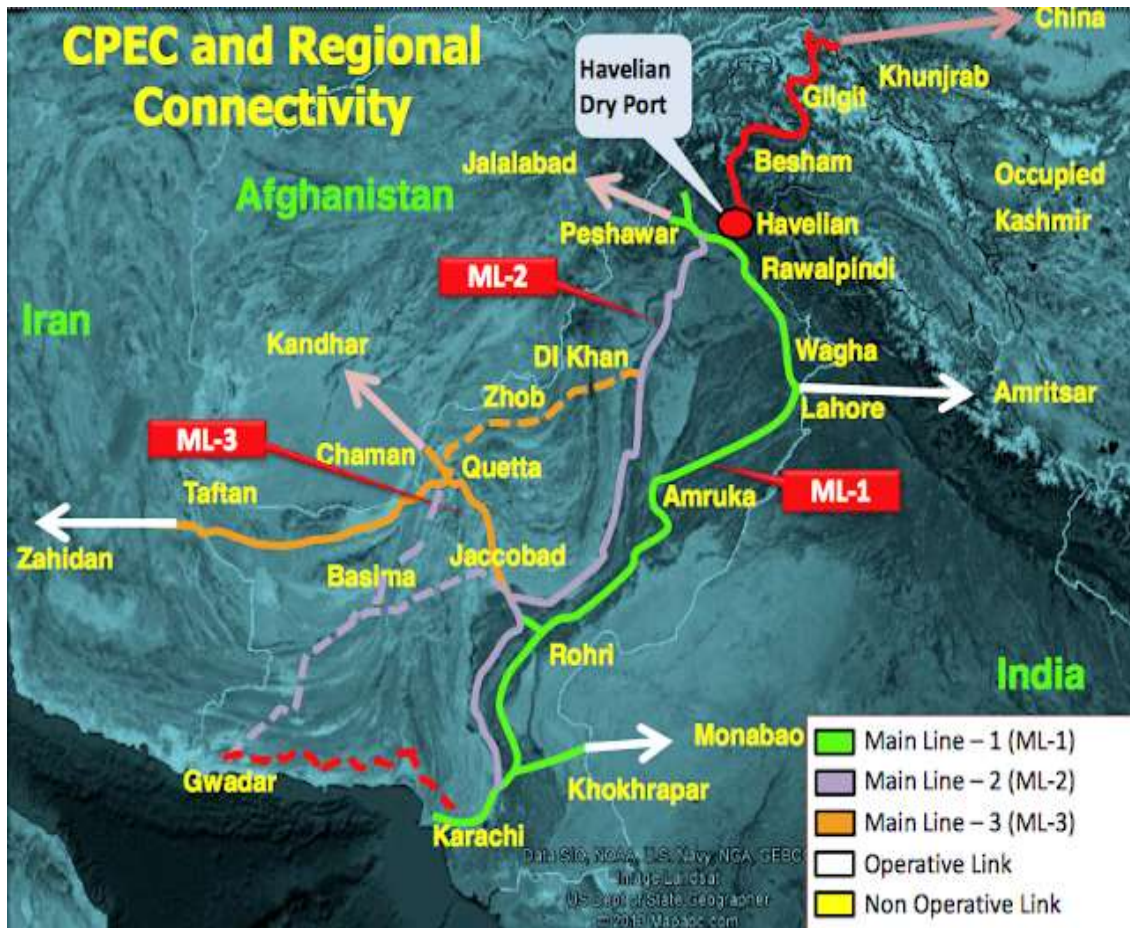
¹ Faheemullah Sheikh, "Prospects of Pakistan-China Energy and Economic Corridor," *Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews* 59, (June 2016): 253-263.

² "China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)," *Board of Investment PM Office GOP*, <http://boi.gov.pk/InfoCenter/CPEC.aspx>.

³ "Balochis of Pakistan: On the margin of history," *The Foreign Policy Center*, 2006, 1-76.

⁴ Lucas Niewwenhuis, "Two Chinese were abducted on the New Silk Road in Pakistan- China's Latest Political and Current affair news," *SupChina*, May. 24, 2017, <http://supchina.com/2017/05/24/two-chinese-abductednew-silk-road-pakistan-chinas-latest-political-current-affairs-news/>

progress of the local community. Besides, economic benefits, the CPEC also incorporated both China and Pakistan to build a socio-economic structure in the relevant areas.



The CPEC and the development of Balochistan remain a critical issue in Pakistan. Balochistan is a province that faced low economic development, complicated political and security structure throughout. These problems relate to both indigenous and exogenous factors that hampered the security environment of the province creating apprehensions for China. Both governments have reciprocal political and strategic interests in the region. China aims to promote stability of Balochistan and also of Pakistan because it can help China's ambitions to become a worldwide power. Security issues in the past have hindered development and kept foreign investment away from Balochistan.⁵

⁵ Faheemullah Sheikh, "Prospects of Pakistan-China Energy and Economic Corridor," *Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews* 59, (June 2016): 253-263.

Balochistan's growth was hampered by the province's modest economic contribution to Pakistan. The topographical roughness of the terrain, uncertain security environment and the underdeveloped people were main contributing factors. For instance, Turbat, which has the most challenging terrain along the western route in Balochistan, has just 180,000 residents.⁶ Three tehsils make up the Balochistan district of Pangjur, which has a population of about 350,000.⁷ The completion of the planned road network has increased commercial activity and other CPEC development activities, in the neighboring cities like Qalat, Quetta, and Zhob. Due to the construction of road networks under economic corridor, the province has experienced visible boom in social and economic activities.⁸ Property values in these areas have increased as a result of the construction of roads along CPEC's western route. Locals have begun to establish hotel business, stores, and commercial residences along the completed sections of the CPEC.

STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

In terms of geography, Balochistan is the largest province of Pakistan; however, it accommodates only five percent of the Pakistan's total population.⁹ Strategic importance of Balochistan has increased by ten folds with the commencement of CPEC. Balochistan, rich with mineral resources, remains neglected and least developed. Negligence at state level for such a long time has developed grievances among Baloch people against the government. Poverty and illiteracy has further added fuel to the fire and Balochistan became hub of militancy and ethnic violence both influenced by internal and external factors that hindered social, political and economic development of the province. Nevertheless, the commencement of CPEC and its development projects made a hope for Balochistan and its people to benefit from the development projects associated with it. This research dissertation examines the relevance and prospects of CPEC projects with Balochistan's socio-economic development. CPEC is considered a game changer for Pakistan and Balochistan to elevate socio-economic condition and hoped a new whiff of hope if implemented in a constructive way. The study will also examine

⁶ Mir Sherbaz Khetran, "CPEC: Benefits for Balochistan," *Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI)*, Feb. 15, 2016, <http://www.issi.org.pk/cpec-benefits-for-balochistan/>.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ John Calabrese, "The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC): Underway and Under Threat," *Middle East Institute*, December 20, 2016, <http://www.mei.edu/content/map/china-pakistan-economic-corridor-cpec-underway-and-under-threat>.

⁹ Mir Sherbaz Khetran, "CPEC: Benefits for Balochistan," *Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI)*, Feb. 15, 2016, <http://www.issi.org.pk/cpec-benefits-for-balochistan/>.

the significance of Balochistan and its rich mineral resources that has the potential to add in state's revenue if handled appropriate. This research also evaluates various endogenous and exogenous factors that are barring the efficient implementation of CPEC projects in the province.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

This research answers the following questions:

- What is the socio-economic landscape of Balochistan?
- How CPEC is significant for social and economic growth of Balochistan?
- How did various internal and external factors impact on Balochistan's development vis-à-vis CPEC?
- What prospects CPEC offers for the socio-economic development of Balochistan?

OBJECTIVE OF STUDY

The purpose of this study is to determine the following goals:

- a) To understand Balochistan's landscape and its significance;
- b) To examine the relevance and role of CPEC with Balochistan's development
- c) To elucidate various challenges influencing the CPEC and the socio-economic development of Balochistan
- d) To highlight the prospects for the improvement of Balochistan's social and economic prosperity.

LITRATURE REVIEW

There is the reality Literature on the subject under the discussion by local and foreign scalars, CPEC is a mega project and the golden opportunity of Balochistan for its social & economic upliftment; there for a variety of Literature deals with many Relevant facts including the internal challenges the role of regional actors and the international response towards CPEC and Vastly discuss and published.

A crucial industry for economic development is road construction. For the economic and social development of rural regions, it is essential to build country roads in addition to the

motorways used for transit between metropolitan areas or between urban and rural areas. With a manageable population and a high resource to labour force ratio, Balochistan is a resource-rich region. Thousands more jobs may be created in the province, and the astonishingly high unemployment rate could be reduced to what is considered normal.¹⁰ The challenging development process results in structural alteration. As a result, in order to develop, the province need a development strategy that tries to change the economic environment. With all of its potential and opportunities, CPEC is expected to advance the province's development plan and clear the way for economic expansion.¹¹ Unquestionably, achieving economic growth and development requires a professional industrial and commercial development strategy. If the Pakistani government does not involve significant business organizations, both domestically and abroad, in the design and development of suitable industrial policies, the CPEC will merely remain a "transit" route with no meaningful benefits to Pakistan's economy beyond providing a more direct route to China and her trading partners. Therefore, rather than being a transportation corridor, CPEC must be built as an economic corridor.¹² All around the world, economic corridors are being constructed to support development and economic progress. In view of its severe economic problems, Pakistan must design and articulate measures to enhance industry, trade, and commerce in order to properly capitalize on CPEC-related commercial potential.¹³

Balochistan is without a doubt one of the most important regions of Pakistan in terms of CPEC developments.¹⁴ Its location offers a fantastic trade route that links Afghanistan, the Central Asian Republics, and the Chinese province of Xinjiang with the deep-sea port of Gwadar.¹⁵ CPEC is appropriately described as a comprehensive package of economic development initiatives, not only a system of roads and highways that benefits all sectors of the

¹⁰ Arshmah Jamil, "China-Pakistan Economic Corridor; Impact on Development of Balochistan," *Pakistan China Institute*, July 2015, <http://www.opf.org.pk/media/1399/china-pakistan-economic-corridor-security-threats-solutions-a-strategy.pdf>.

¹¹ Saima Perveen and Jehanzeb Khalil, "Gwadar-Kashgar Economic Corridor: Challenges and Imperatives for Pakistan and China," *Journal of Political Studies* 22, no. 2 (December 2015): 351-366.

¹² Ahmed ur Rehman and Vaqar Ahmed, "Cpec and Regional Integration," *Sustainable Development Policy Institute*, October 3, 2016, https://sdpi.org/media/media_details2506-article-2016.html.

¹³ Shazar Shafqat, "CPEC and the Baloch Insurgency," *The Diplomat*, February 8, 2017, <http://thediplomat.com/2017/02/cpec-and-the-baloch-insurgency/>.

¹⁴ Faheemullah Sheikh, "Prospects of Pakistan-China Energy and Economic Corridor," *Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews* 59, (June 2016): 253-263.

¹⁵ Mir Sherbaz Khetrn, "CPEC: Benefits for Balochistan," *Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI)*, Feb. 15, 2016, <http://www.issi.org.pk/cpec-benefits-for-balochistan/>.

economy.¹⁶ The development of the province's infrastructure, especially its road and rail networks, may contribute in a number of different ways to the region's economic development.¹⁷ It has the ability to revolutionise the provincial economy and bring it up to pace with the national economy, providing Pakistan and the province of Balochistan with long-term economic opportunities. Under the aegis of CPEC, the Pakistani government has proposed the establishment of about 29 industrial parks and 21 mineral processing zones,¹⁸ 27 of which have been classified as Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and Mineral Processing Zones. For the proposed Minerals Economic Processing Zones in Balochistan, Quetta, Dostan, Gwadar, Khuzdar, Uthal, Hub, and Dera Murad Jamali have been identified. For the mineral economic processing zones, Khuzdar, Chagai, Qila Saifullah, Saindak, Reko Diq, Kalat, Lasbela, and Muslim Bagh have also been on the list.¹⁹

CPEC will probably play a significant role in the flow of goods from the Gulf nations into western China. We can assess the potential of accelerating the industrialisation process in the Balochistan province given the existing Chinese demand for goods from the Middle East.²⁰ For instance, in 2014, China bought crude oil from Middle Eastern countries for over \$88 billion, of which \$76 billion was in the form of raw materials and unprocessed goods, indicating that almost 85% of the oil was processed in China.²¹ Similar to this, Pakistan imported lubricant and crude oil products worth \$5.6 billion from the Gulf in 2014.²² Thus, even if China merely uses CPEC to acquire 10% of its total unprocessed oil from these nations, the supply of such goods to Pakistan will be significantly increased.²³ In addition, China bought from the Middle East, mostly the United Arab Emirates, industrial items worth roughly \$17 billion more than Pakistan

¹⁶ Faheemullah Sheikh, "Prospects of Pakistan-China Energy and Economic Corridor," *Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews* 59, (June 2016): 253-263.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Faheemullah Sheikh, "Prospects of Pakistan-China Energy and Economic Corridor," *Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews* 59, (June 2016): 253-263.

¹⁹ Hasan Askari Rizvi, "The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor: Regional Cooperation and Socio-Economic Development," *Strategic Studies* 34, no. 4 (December 2015): 1-17.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Ibid.

²² Safdar Sial, "The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor: An Assessment of Potential Threats and Constraints," *Conflict and Peace Studies* 6, no. 2 (May 2016) 1-7.

²³ Ibid.

imported from the region for \$2.4 billion in 2014.²⁴ These supplies included machinery, chemical, and mineral products, as well as vehicles like automobiles, aircraft, and ships.

It is critical to build industries along the corridor, especially in and around the port city of Gwadar, since they will make up the majority of the imports to western China that may be transported via CPEC.²⁵ Due to its strategic location, Gwadar is the ideal location for a number of industries, including those that produce automobiles, ships and shipbreaking, textiles and apparel, steel and cement factories, and petrochemical intermediates. Gwadar is another city in Balochistan.²⁶ The raw commodities that China could bring to Gwadar can be managed by Balochistan before being sent to China and other commercial partners. It will begin carrying out business activities that boost Balochistan's overall economy and provide thousands of employment for the region's young population.²⁷

Balochistan's physical and social infrastructure development has not advanced since Pakistan's independence. The province now lacks both physical and social infrastructure, including roads, water supply, electricity, and any sort of comforts or employment opportunities.²⁸ Balochistan is still in its pastoral and horticultural stages of development, which is regrettable given that the province's economy is dominated by the livestock and small-scale agricultural subsectors and comprises just 9% of the manufacturing and financial sectors overall.²⁹ Given the limited resources at hand, it is crucial to concentrate development efforts on certain sectors of the economy and geographic areas, such as growth nodes and economic corridors, which can have a pull effect on other regions of the provincial economy.

The social, urban, agricultural, and fishery sectors have been improved by the Baloch administration, which has identified 15 potential growth nodes.³⁰ The locations where the growth nodes have been seen include Quetta, Turbat, Gwadar, Khuzdar, Sibi, Qila Saifullah, Hub

²⁴ Andrew Small, *The China-Pakistan Axis - Asia's New Geopolitics* (London: Hurst and Company Publishers, 2015)12-14.

²⁵ Massarrat Abid and Ayesha Ashfaq, "CPEC: Challenges and Opportunities for Pakistan," *Journal of Pakistan Vision* 16, no. 2 (September 2015)142-169.

²⁶ Claude Rakisits, Balochistan, "Extremism and CPEC," *Defence Journal* 20, no. 2 (Spring 2016) 46.

²⁷ Umbreen Javaid, "Assessing CPEC: Potential Threats and Prospects," *Journal of the Research Society of Pakistan* 53, no. 2 (2016) 254-269.

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ Safdar Sial, "The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor: An Assessment of Potential Threats and Constraints," *Conflict and Peace Studies* 6, no. 2 (May 2016) 1-7.

Chowki, Panjgur, Loralai, Khara, Dalbandin, Nushki, Chaman, Zhob, and Dera Allahyar.³¹ Up to five clustered growth nodes may also be designated by the government; these nodes are made up of the aforementioned locations and neighboring towns, with the closest cities acting as their urban centers. The location at intersections, the size of the population and its growth rates, the production of minerals, fruit, fish, cereals, and vegetables, among other factors, are used to identify the growth nodes—regions where social, economic, and industrial development may be concentrated.³² These development hubs may create a value chain that would link Balochistan to markets and ports via CPEC infrastructure and other useful facilities, hence boosting the province's economic activities. According to Asif, Minhas, and Ahmad, the local Baloch community is afraid that once the CPEC project is finished, their identity would be in danger and their riches will be moved to other nations without paying them their fair share.³³

This subject matter deals with China's diplomatic project China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) its impact on Pakistan in general, and the province of Balochistan in particular. CPEC is facing serious Socio-Economic and Security challenges. Intellectuals have explored Belt and Road (BRI) initiative, and apprehensions of host States particularly India and US, and their counter measures. However, little or no discussion exists on non- traditional security challenges posed on CPEC and Balochistan, and on ways to deal and pacify apprehensions of Pakistan, provision of security to CPEC related projects, impact on security architecture of Pakistan and Balochistan region, challenges in international arena and counter measures by China and Pakistan. Furthermore, the research focus on the weak areas of Balochistan including infrastructure development, Human security, employment and socio-Economic growth and changing regional security architecture; impact on Pakistan and Balochistan region appears to be missing and needs further elaboration. This research discusses, analyses and elaborates these missing areas.

³¹ Faheemullah Sheikh, "Prospects of Pakistan-China Energy and Economic Corridor," *Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews* 59, (June 2016): 253-263.

³² Hasan Askari Rizvi, "The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor: Regional Cooperation and Socio-Economic Development," *Strategic Studies* 34, no. 4 (December 2015): 1-17.

³³ Nadeem Akhtar, Hidayat Ullah Khan and Ma Jianfu, "Exploring the Determinants of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and Its Impact on Local Communities," *Sage Open* 11, no. 4 (November 2021).

<https://doi.org/10.1177/21582440211057127>

CORE ARGUMENT

Balochistan possesses a significant geo-political and geo-economic location. However, the poor social apparatus, low economic infrastructural development and the critical role of external actors have made Balochistan's social and economic development difficult through the CPEC project.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Following the end of the Cold War, the world saw significant changes. The pursuit of a stable international system that favors economic growth has trumped political goals such as military strength or national security. Industrialized nations acknowledged the necessity for a firm basis via economic strength and technical advancement, rather than only sophisticated weapons systems and large military organizations, in order to gain true power.³⁴ Following these occurrences, realism and liberal intellectuals began debating one another. Every school of thought attempted to persuade listeners that its position was rational and relevant to current global events.

Under the interdependence system, states cooperate for their shared interests. The prosperity and stability of the global system are instantly enhanced by this partnership. Neoliberal philosophers assert that governments are not only driven by power-based national goals. Under this interdependence, relations between governments and other international entities are marked by both cooperation and rivalry.³⁵ Transactions among interdependent parties have costly reciprocal repercussions. The policies and actions of one actor have a major impact on those of another, and so on. Cooperation, reliance, and engagement in a variety of settings, including conflict, constitute an interdependent connection between people. It is not only about inter-actor harmony and collaboration. Complex Interdependence mixes "elements of power politics and economic liberalism," resulting in a synthesis of two opposing viewpoints. It also discusses the advantages and disadvantages of interdependence.

³⁴ Waheeda Rana, "Theory of Complex Interdependence: A Comparative Analysis of Realist

³⁵ Robert O. Keohane, Joseph S. Nye, "Review: Power and Interdependence Revisited," *International Organization* 41, no. 4 (Autumn 1987): 725-753.

In the late 1970s, *Robert O. Keohane and Joseph S. Nye* introduced the *Complex Interdependence Theory*.³⁶ Complex interdependence explains the growth of transnational players in respect to the state. Its emphasis was on the growth of international institutions and organizations that rewarded conventional military force, as well as the shifting weight of commerce and welfare factors in foreign policy as opposed to security and status problems. Complex Interdependence Theory got ingrained in the neoliberal narrative, and it has been widely used in global political analysis to explain states' propensity to form cooperative coalitions with one another in anarchic and dependent contexts.³⁷

CPEC is explained in perspectives of neo-liberalism. In the light of neo-liberal school of thought, CPEC is founded on five principles of Peaceful Co-existence by Chinese; *mutual respect for each other's sovereignty; the commitment to non-aggression; no interference in each other's internal or external affairs and territorial integrity; mutual benefit and peaceful co-existence*. China wants to enhance its influence in the region through peaceful interdependence. It is advantageous for both the states. CPEC provide short and secure trade gateway to China. Alternatively, CPEC bestow Pakistan with huge employment and economic opportunities. This research study is described in the frame work of the theory of Complex Interdependence. The term "interdependence" is frequently used in the contemporary, interconnected world of today. Interdependence in the context of international politics refers to the interdependence of governments and non-state entities. Dependence is sometimes defined as being substantially influenced by or controlled by external influences. The most basic definition of interdependence is reciprocal dependency. In international politics, situations with reciprocal effects between states or actors from many nations are said to as interdependent.

As a result of globalization, states are dependent on one another, and this dependence is influenced by outside forces and factors known as reciprocal effects among various states or state actors. The concepts of sensitivity and susceptibility are central to the idea of dependence. While sensitivity interdependence has economic, social, and political implications, vulnerability interdependence is the responsibility that an actor must bear as a result of external forces. Interdependence, according to Keohane and Nye, necessitates international collaboration rather

³⁶ Faheemullah Sheikh, "Prospects of Pakistan-China Energy and Economic Corridor," *Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews* 59, (June 2016): 253-263.

³⁷ Neoliberal Thoughts," *International Journal of Business and Social Science* 6, no. 2 (February 2015): 290-297.

than antagonism. Following WWII, the economic ramifications of interconnectedness became more significant. Nye distinguished four types of interdependence: costs, benefits, sources, and symmetry. Cooper popularized the notion of economic interconnectivity, which became generally recognized after WWII and especially during the Cold War. Cooper is credited for popularising the notion of economic interconnectedness, which has since become commonplace both during and after the Cold War. Under the interdependence system, states cooperate for their shared interests. The prosperity and stability of the global system are instantly enhanced by this partnership. Neoliberal philosophers assert that governments are not only driven by power-based national goals.³⁸ Under this interdependence, relations between governments and other international entities are marked by both cooperation and rivalry. Transactions among interdependent parties have costly reciprocal repercussions. The policies and actions of one actor have a major impact on those of another, and so on. Cooperation, reliance, and engagement in a variety of settings, including conflict, constitute an interdependent connection between people. It is not only about inter-actor harmony and collaboration.

Complex Interdependence mixes "elements of power politics and economic liberalism," resulting in a synthesis of two opposing viewpoints. It also discusses the advantages and disadvantages of interdependence. Even when significant net advantages from collaboration are projected, rivalry plays a role in the politics of economic and ecological interdependence.³⁹ Furthermore, Keohane and Nye defined "interdependence" as a scenario in which mutual dependency was not uniformly distributed. Additionally, dependency asymmetries may provide one individual an edge over another actor. A less reliant actor can use his standing as a negotiating tool on any issue that might have an effect on other issues.

THE FUNDAMENTAL FEATURES OF COMPLEX INTERDEPENDENCE

Robert Keohane and Joseph Nye outlined the essential components of Complex Interdependence, which offered a variety of viewpoints on the world system. They identified the following three characteristics of Complex Interdependence in their book "Power and Interdependence: World Politics in Transition."

³⁸ Robert O. Keohane, Joseph S. Nye, "Review: Power and Interdependence Revisited," *International Organization* 41, no. 4 (Autumn 1987): 725-753.

³⁹ Robert O. Keohane, Joseph S. Nye, "Review: Power and Interdependence Revisited," *International Organization* 41, no. 4 (Autumn 1987): 725-753.

MULTIPLE CHANNELS

As part of the linkages between societies, all interstate, transnational, and trans governmental exchanges are included in global politics. This undermines the idea of a unitary state as defined by realism. The Complex Interdependence Theory is based on this idea. It attempted to bring together a number of groups, including leaders from the nonprofit and governmental sectors, to pave the way for cross-border connections between governments.⁴⁰ Transnational and multinational businesses will have a significant impact on local and interstate relations. Governments, corporations, financial institutions, and trade groups will all take action, affecting several countries. As a result, trade policies will have a stronger influence on local economic activity.⁴¹

Informal relationships between nongovernmental elites and multinational organisations are more essential as a source of international cooperation in this difficult time of interdependence than merely formal and informal interactions between political elites. Multinational firms and banks have a significant impact on domestic and international relations.

ABSENCE OF HIERARCHY

Without a hierarchy, state-to-state interactions will encounter a variety of problems, none of which will be ordered in a distinct hierarchy. Contrary to realists, military security will not be given top priority in a system of intricate interconnections. There won't be a difference made between domestic and international problems. The creation of a well-balanced and long-term foreign strategy would benefit from the handling of issues that have an effect on particular internal groupings but are not viewed as predicted national risks.

MINOR ROLE OF MILITARY

Strong links of influence may exist, but Keohane and Nye argue that using force to achieve other goals—such as the growth of the economy and the environment, which are increasingly important—is no longer viewed as an appropriate strategy. This is due to the fact that utilizing force militarily usually has highly costly and unreliable results. Complex Interdependence maintains that force is of minimal importance in international relations, in

⁴⁰ Neoliberal Thoughts," *International Journal of Business and Social Science* 6, no. 2 (February 2015): 290-297.

⁴¹ *ibid*

contrast to the important role that force is allotted in the realist world, where it is considered as an absolute requirement to ensure life. When Complex Interdependence is present, military force may not be able to resolve disagreements over economic issues among alliance members, but it may still have a significant influence.

The significance of military action as a key policy option for resolving disputes has declined in the globalized world due to the greater understanding of the maximum cost of war among all parties as a result of modern nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons. However, it continues to be an important factor in talks and may change based on the circumstances. Its purpose cannot be completely disregarded. In an imbalanced partnership, the less dependent party may use it as a negotiating ploy. The validity of these premises has been questioned by a few global politics specialists, but it is widely accepted that the complex interdependence hypothesis will be a successful approach to tackling global economic and environmental concerns. Therefore, in the era of globalization when nations are interconnected, the Complex Interdependence hypothesis is relevant. The complex interdependence model placed more focus on cooperation than on competing military strength.

THE COMPLEX INTERDEPENDENCE THEORY AND CPEC: APPLICATION

The debate that just took place brings to a close the application of the complex interdependence theory to the study "CPEC: A Case for Complex Interdependence." China and Pakistan have always enjoyed cordial ties and have consistently supported one another during trying times. In regional and international venues, both countries have backed one another on a number of topics. These strategic and political relationships are now being strengthened through the CPEC, and it is likely that industrial cooperation will soon develop between Pakistan and China.

As we have seen, symmetric dependency is rare in practice, therefore dependency is not always balanced equally. In terms of CPEC, it is obvious that this relationship is uneven. CPEC will be extremely profitable for both countries, but China stands to gain the most. According to Keohane and Nye, when participants have asymmetric dependency, the less reliant actor has more negotiating power than the dependent one. As was already said, Pakistan's attempts to develop its infrastructure and economy depend on the CPEC. Pakistan has a great opportunity to eliminate significant barriers to economic advancement as a result of the CPEC projects.

Pakistan was dealing with a severe energy crisis before to the CPEC's launch, which had a detrimental effect on recent economic advancement. The energy crisis cost the economy 2% of GDP every year. With the completion of these projects, the nation will be self-sufficient owing to an investment of almost US\$34 billion in the energy sector, which is resolving the nation's chronic energy crisis. By restoring existing industries, it is improving the country's dire socioeconomic conditions. A \$12 billion investment is being made in infrastructure development as part of CPEC, which will improve connectivity and create new possibilities for the country's growth and development. The SEZs being built as part of CPEC are expected to have a significant positive impact on Pakistan. These SEZs will promote industrialization and direct the country towards export-oriented growth, both of which are critically needed by the nation. It will change the country's path and put an end to the current account deficit problem it has been having because of trade imbalances for years.

Pakistan's industrialization process was proceed with the creation of industrial zones under CPEC. It will bring about a period of social progress, revitalize Pakistani industry, and boost Pakistan's economy. To compete in the local and international markets, Pakistan should benefit from China's experience with industrialization and increase the range of products it offers, enhance its human resources, and implement cutting-edge technology. In particular, in the northern regions, which are home to five of the world's highest mountains, all of which are above 8,000 meters high, the expansion of the infrastructure will stimulate travel and trade between locations.

It is anticipated that Pakistan's agriculture business would grow with the use of contemporary technologies and value addition. Pakistan should use its abundant natural resources to generate significant economic benefits in order to advance the growth and prosperity of the country. When fully developed, the tourism sector will have a substantial impact on the economy. To attract visitors and increase revenue, Pakistan should modernize its seafood and fisheries industries and extend its coastline. The "Malacca dilemma" has long hampered China's ability to push its interests abroad. At the moment, the 'Strait of Malacca' serves as China's principal commercial route to the Middle East, Africa, and Europe, as well as its sole source of oil supplies. The CPEC would assist China by reducing wait times and ensuring a steady supply. The Malacca Strait currently handles more than 80% of all imports.

In order to resolve the Malacca conundrum and guarantee its energy security, China has diversified its energy sources and delivery methods. China intends to improve its western regions with CPEC, especially the neglected and underdeveloped Xinjian province. Along with battling separatist and terrorist operations, China places a high premium on opening up employment opportunities in Xinjiang.

Thanks to CPEC, China will have access to the Indian Ocean. China will be able to monitor regional geopolitical changes and increase its sway in the Middle East. CPEC would also assist China in strengthening its ties with Afghanistan and the energy-rich Central Asian countries.

As a result, CPEC is regarded as a game-changer for China, both strategically and economically. The CPEC will shorten the 12,000-mile marine route from China to the Persian Gulf to 300 km from Kashgar to Gwadar. China will just need 10 days rather than 45 to receive commodities from the Middle East and Africa. As a result of the new route, shipping costs for its products should be reduced to one-third of what they are presently. As a result, China has the upper hand during CPEC talks with Pakistan. The largest foreign investment in Pakistan's history, China is investing 62 billion dollars through CPEC. As a result, Pakistan has an advantage over China in terms of geography, despite China having the second-largest economy in the world.

According to the Multiple Channel Assumption, connections in today's global society are transnational and nongovernmental. Exchanges between cultures and social groupings increasingly extend beyond interstate contact. The participation of China and Pakistan in the CPEC, as well as the quantity of collaboration between various Chinese companies and Pakistani corporate and state institutions, is expanding. Thousands of Pakistani students are receiving government scholarships to study in China as cross-cultural contacts grow. More Pakistanis may be included in and profit from the CPEC.

The Pakistani and Chinese governments inked a cultural cooperation agreement in 2018 to promote people-to-people exchange. China's Minister of Culture, Luo Shugang, said that both China and Pakistan will do more in the future to advance their mutually beneficial cultural ties. China and Pakistan signed a cultural agreement to promote intercultural dialogue. There is presently no organisational hierarchy and no established strategy for interstate relations, which is

consistent with the no-hierarchy notion. Because there is no hierarchy, issues concerning interstate relations will not be addressed in a predefined hierarchy.

Contrary to realists' predictions, the primary worry in the system of complex interdependence won't be military security. For instance, China constructs institutions to disseminate its ideology and culture. A little part of the Complex Interdependence Theory is played by military strength. It is not regarded as the most effective tool for foreign policy. Agreements made between alliance members cannot be carried out via it. Because military wars are expensive and all countries are fully aware of how to maximise the cost of war, force and coercion are no longer seen as vital tools for accomplishing economic and political goals in complex interconnected systems.

It seems quite improbable that China and Pakistan will engage in military combat given their friendly and solid ties. These connections are currently being strengthened as part of CPEC's economic cooperation. Given its proximity to China, Pakistan's border with that country is seen to be the safest of all the frontiers. The foundations of the relationship between China and Pakistan have traditionally been the ideas of peaceful coexistence and shared strategic objectives. Both countries were able to form an alliance without engaging in military or political warfare as a result of their strong friendship. As most early harvest projects have been completed or will be soon, CPEC, which is seen as a critical part of Xijiping's envisioned BRI, has already entered a pivotal stage. CPEC has advanced well since the conclusion of around 12 important infrastructure and energy projects during the preceding few years.

The nation's infrastructure is being significantly impacted by these activities, which are also helping to solve the country's urgent energy crisis, boost GDP, provide job opportunities, and provide considerable socioeconomic benefits. Industrial zone development would now herald in a new era of revival for the country's industrial sector and bring huge advantages for the Pakistani people. By making use of the industrial potential in the agricultural, textile, culinary, mining, engineering, and other sectors, Pakistan's exports would rise. In all of the nation, it will increase employment and decrease poverty. The CPEC project will benefit both nations' and the region's interests if it is completed successfully.

Therefore, the accomplishment of the CPEC project will result in win-win outcomes and tremendous future benefits for both countries and the region. It will result in the fusion of the geostrategic goals of the two countries and a tighter alignment of their interests.

The CPEC opened the opportunities for the people of Balochistan. With estimated 7.1 billion initial investment through CPEC in Balochistan, ranks second in its share from \$ 46 billion according to the statistics of the Ministry of PDR. Balochistan, in general, and Gwadar, in particular, is the linchpin of CPEC. The project will subsequently contribute to the development of the whole province and address various economic and social problems of Balochistan which mainly caused because of financial issues in the province. Gwadar is transformed in to an economic hub which leads to the development of Balochistan people.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research is qualitative in nature. It is descriptive and analytical. Deductive reasoning and approach have been adopted for research. The source of data collection includes secondary sources like, books, articles, journals, magazines, electronic and print media. However, some of the official documents are also accessed as primary source for data collection.

SIGNIFICANCE OF STUDY

China's continuous economic rise has the capability to reshape the prevailing status quo. It will not only change the contours of economic landscape but will also substantially influence the global security environment in general and regional security environment in particular. The research in hand is an effort to outline, assess and analyze the Socio-Economic issues prevailing in Pakistan and their implications on the CPEC project. However, the focus has been on the Balochistan region only. The research will help both; the practitioners as well as theorists. In practice, the research will help formulate likely avenues of cooperation and policy options for Pakistan at domestic and international level. It will provide the basis and reference to academia for further research on the subject. Furthermore, the research strengthens the concept that non-traditional security and economic prosperity are interdependent.

DELIMITATION

BRI initiative expands to three Continents; however, the research limits itself by analysing the economic opportunities and challenges posed by the CPEC project in Pakistan with special focus on Balochistan. Moreover, prospects for enhanced security architecture will be analysed too. The researcher has analysed the Socio-Economic challenges and policy measures undertaken by Pakistani government since 2013 till date (2021). The research is primarily based on secondary sources as access to official Chinese and Pakistani documents is either limited or not available. However, some of the primary statistical data is consulted online for appropriate information.

ORGANIZATION OF STUDY

CHAPTER 1: SOCIO-ECONOMIC LANDSCAPE OF BALOCHISTAN

Chapter one gives an overview of Balochistan with its geographical, political, social and economic outlook to grasp a true relevance and understanding of the subject under research. Additionally, it highlights the geo-strategic importance of Balochistan and interests of emerging economic super-power China. Moreover, it draws the intension to the outcome the China-Pakistan economic corridor. Additionally, it conveys the intent of the China-Pakistan economic corridor while thorough understanding Balochistan as a significant trade route of this project.

CHAPTER 2: CHINA-PAKISTAN ECONOMIC CORRIDOR (CPEC) AND BALOCHISTAN

This chapter begins by highlighting the significance of the China–Pakistan Economic Corridor and how it relates to the social and economic circumstances in Balochistan. The chapter focuses upon the significance of EEZs and other economic and development opportunities that Balochistan can potentially utilize to uplift its social and economic condition. It further describes the efforts of Pakistan for domestic peace in general and particularly the Balochistan province. Additionally, it highlights the geo-strategic importance of Balochistan and interests of emerging economic super-power China.

CHAPTER 3: CPEC AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF BALOCHISTAN: INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL CHALLENGES

Chapter three is an analytical chapter that elucidates various internal and external challenges that needs to be addressed cautiously. Balochistan is confronted with multi-dimensional internal and external challenges. These challenges both internal and outside have a great influence on the true implementation of development plans under the CPEC umbrella. It also mentions the role of international actors in destabilization of the province and supporting insurgent groups to exacerbate the situation.

CHAPTER4: CPEC AND THE PROSPECTS OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF BALOCHISTAN: THE WAY FORWARD

It is assumed that CPEC is a game changer that would help the province to resuscitate its fortune. CPEC is labeled as a ‘national project’ that would benefit all the provinces of Pakistan, and Balochistan in particular as it is aimed to connect Pakistan with the world through Gwadar port. This chapter discusses the prospects of development and modernization of Balochistan economy and society through benefitting from the development project under the CPEC. Additionally, it offer suggestions for improving Balochistan’s social and economic circumstances in order to facilitate the smooth operation of the CPEC projects, which are expected to transform Pakistan and Balochistan in Particular.

CHAPTER 1

SOCIO-ECONOMIC LANDSCAPE OF BALOCHISTAN

Balochistan, which accounts for 43.6% of Pakistan's total territory and is also the country's biggest province in terms of size, is the poorest region.⁴² Despite having its first elected government and becoming a province in 1972, it was denied full provincial status.⁴³ Since the British took power, this area has been disregarded. Balochistan has attracted the attention of regional and global actors in the present century. Balochistan plays a substantial part in regional geopolitics as a result of its physical location. IT has never lost its geostrategic significance despite moving around a lot throughout history. This chapter starts with socio-economic landscape.

Balochistan appears to be experiencing more barriers to socio-economic growth than other Pakistani provinces, despite having a significant quantity of mineral riches.⁴⁴ A number of factors, including geographic diversity, remoteness, environmental fragility, and demographic and geographic peculiarities, contribute to this state. However, due to its mineral resources, Balochistan's geography has considerable economic significance. Sui found large gas reserves in 1952, but despite many attempts to commercialize it throughout Ayub's presidency, it was unable to play a significant role in Pakistan's economy.⁴⁵ A prospective site for commercial transportation routes may be found along the wide coastline, which acts as a gatekeeper for abundant marine resources. Due to its strategic location, Pakistan has access to a region that

⁴² Moonis Ahmar, "Strategic Meaning of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor,1," *Strategic Studies* 34 & 35, no. 4 & 1 (2014-15): 35-49.

⁴³ Umbreen Javaid and Rameesha Javaid, "Strengthening Geo-Strategic Bond of Pakistan and China through Geo-Economic Configuration," *Pakistan Economic and Social Review* 54, no. 1 (2016):123-142.

⁴⁴ Shabir Ahmad, and Zahid Ali Khan Marwat, "CPEC: Role in Regional Integration and Peace," *South Asian Studies* 31, no. 2 (2016): 499-508.

⁴⁵ Ibid

might lower trade and transit costs between China, Afghanistan, and the Central Asian Republics (CARs).⁴⁶

1.1 GEOGRAPHICAL EXISTENCE OF BALOCHISTAN AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE

Balochistan is bordered by Afghanistan, the Middle East, Central Asia, South and Southeast Asia (Southwest Asia), and Pakistan. It is located on the southern edge of the Iranian plateau. It is the fastest route from Gwader to Central Asia because to its closeness to the entrance of the Strait of Hormus. Balochistan, Pakistan's largest province in terms of land size, borders Sindh, Punjab, and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). The Arabian Sea, which is part of the Indian Ocean, is linked to Iran and Afghanistan.⁴⁷ Past evidence demonstrates that its geographical isolation has prevented it from serving as an area capable of safeguarding global interests. Balochistan, which extends from the west to the east, gradually swings north, and then goes north and south as it approaches Sindh, has rugged landscape. The following are some major mountain ranges which are either entirely or partly a part of Balochistan.

- The Toba Kakar range in Balochistan is a southern extension of the Himalayas. Between Zoab and Pishin, the Toba Kakar range, which also acts as a watershed between the Indus and Helmand basins, divides Balochistan from Afghanistan. In the northeastern region of Balochistan, near Quetta, the province capital, lie the Suleiman Mountains. Long regarded as the most direct route from the coast to Central Asia, Quetta is near to the

⁴⁶ Akber Ali, "China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC): Prospects and Challenges for Regional Integration," *International Journal of Social Sciences and Humanity Studies* 7, no. 1 (2015): 1-15.

⁴⁷ Shabir Ahmad, and Zahid Ali Khan Marwat, "CPEC: Role in Regional Integration and Peace," *South Asian Studies* 31, no. 2 (2016): 499-508.

Bolan Pass and permits passage through the Kandahar region of Afghanistan. The British and other ancient empires previously used this route to conquer Afghanistan.⁴⁸

- In southern Balochistan, Iran, and Pakistan, the Makran Range is a semi-desert coastal stretch that abuts the Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Oman. Numerous mountain ranges emerge suddenly from the adjacent coastal plain. Of the 1,000 kilometres of coastline, around 750 km are in Pakistan.⁴⁹
- Balochistan and Sindh both have the Kirthar or Arlbiti Mountain Range. From the Mula River in east-central Balochistan to Cape Muari on the Arabian Sea, it spans 300 km from north to south. The lower Indus plain and the southernmost region of Balochistan are separated by Kirthar.⁵⁰

Balochistan is a province of strategic importance for the reasons given below. The location of a settlement has traditionally influenced its demographic makeup.⁵¹ Geopolitics and geo-economics, as well as a country's physical location, all have a significant impact on a nation's fate. The local population might experience either beneficial or negative consequences from it. A territory's topography cannot be changed, but how we manage it can either offer benefits (useful) or disadvantages (destructive). Balochistan is an excellent illustration of the aforementioned idea

⁴⁸ Lucas Niewwenhuis, "Two Chinese were abducted on the New Silk Road in Pakistan- China's Latest Political and Current affair news," *SupChina*, May. 24, 2017, <http://supchina.com/2017/05/24/two-chinese-abductednew-silk-road-pakistan-chinas-latest-political-current-affairs-news/>

⁴⁹ Ibid

⁵⁰ Shazar Shafqat, CPEC and the Baloch Insurgency, *The Diplomat*, Last modified February 8, 2017, <http://thediplomat.com/2017/02/cpec-and-the-baloch-insurgency/>.

⁵¹ Khaleeq Kiani, "With a new Chinese loan, CPEC is now worth \$51.5bn," *Dawn*, Last modified September 30, 2016, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1287040>.

due to its function as a centre for traders, invaders, and immigrants. Balochistan's geographic position significantly affects Pakistani local, national, regional, and international affairs.⁵²

Due to its position, Balochistan is important from both a geopolitical and geo-economics perspective. It can lead to perpetual peace, national harmony, and workable prosperity in Pakistan and Afghanistan and is a possible trade route for the growth of the economy of the Central Asian countries.⁵³ Balochistan's dispersed territory has been ambushed by unrest and ethnic bloodshed. However, it is unquestionably important geographically and has a number of mineral deposits. Balochistan is a key center for the building of pipelines, mechanised train infrastructure, and connections to the Middle East, Central Asia, and South Asia because of its geographic location. Balochistan's importance in world politics has increased recently.⁵⁴ Mineral and energy deposits found in the area have drawn the interest of foreign investors and developers.

The Balochistan sub region, where the coastal city of Gwadar is established, is of tremendous geostrategic significance since both China and the United States have significant interests there and regard it as an oil terminal and a naval base. The coastal city of Gwader has grown in importance in a regional context as a result of its ability to integrate the region into the process of globalisation.⁵⁵ The ability of Balochistan to propel South Asian economic development or serve as the centre of the next major global calamity determines its geopolitical importance. Control of the region was one of the notable goals of the 20th century, which included using regional

⁵² Akber Ali, "China Pakistan Economic Corridor: Prospects and Challenges for Regional Integration," Arts and Social Sciences Journal, Published July 20, 2016, <https://www.omicsonline.org/open-access/china-pakistaneconomic-corridor-prospects-and-challenges-for-regionalintegration-2151-6200-1000204.php?aid=77852>

⁵³ ibid

⁵⁴ ibid

⁵⁵ H. Safitri, "Economic Corridor Policy, Land Concentration and 'Social Exclusion'Java's Economic Corridor Policy Implementation," ed: Indonesia, International Institute of Social Studies, The Hague, Netherlands. <http://thesis.eur.nl/pub/13083>, 2012.

instability to extend from Balochistan to Central Asia and Eurasia as well as to Eastern Asia. Another important goal was to dominate and control the flow of energy across the Indian Ocean to and from Asia's Eastern, Central, and Western regions. However, the province is now dangerous because to the "Greater Balochistan" idea that the US has suggested.⁵⁶

1.2 THE SOCIAL LANDSCAPE OF BALOCHISTAN

The province with the greatest land but the smallest population is Balochistan. These individual features offer opportunities for progress as well as challenges. Balochistan has the second-highest rate of multidimensional poverty as compared to the previous Federally Administered Tribal Areas.⁵⁷ The province does, however, have a wealth of natural resources that might help it succeed. However, a number of issues, some of which are detailed below, have prevented the province from reaching its full potential.

In Balochistan, there have been ethno-political differences between the two major ethnicities: Pashtun and Baloch. Thus, since the beginning, Baloch and Pashtun politicians have been at cross purposes politically. Like other provinces, Balochistan has no Balochistan-led and Balochistan-owned inclusive political party. For political dispensation, Balochistani politics depends on PMLN, PPP, and PTI, and sometimes, unnatural political parties or alliances are also formed in the province to run the province anyhow. The formation of such artificial political parties has plunged the province into the vortex of governance crisis as well.

The governance crisis has put not only the province at stake, but it has also put the safe future of the country in danger. Unemployment, poverty, illiteracy, extremism, and terrorism are the

⁵⁶ S. O. Wolf, "The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor: An Assessment of its Feasibility and Impact on Regional Cooperation," 2016

⁵⁷ Moonis Ahmar, "Strategic Meaning of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor,1," *Strategic Studies* 34 & 35, no. 4 & 1 (2014-15): 35-49.

results of bad governance in Balochistan. The governance crisis in the province may harm Pak-China, Pak-Iran, and Pak-Afghan relations to a large extent. The governance crisis in Balochistan may increase foreign interference and economic instability in the whole country. The governance crisis has tarnished the unity of the province and vilified the soft image of the country. The curse of enforced disappearances has compelled even the educated Balochistani male and female youth to adopt destructive activities at the cost of exploding themselves. The case of Shari Baloch is enough to comprehend the gravity of bad governance in Balochistan. The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has declared “enforced disappearances” a crime. Militarization is not a solution to political issues.

Despite controlling a sizable and prosperous region, the Baloch have fallen behind their neighbours in terms of socioeconomic growth and civilization. Due to their political instability and economic backwardness, the Baloch were unable to force themselves inside the federation to grab the resource share after Pakistan gained its independence and Balochistan was established as a federating state of the former. The story of the Baloch people's and Balochistan's economic and social backwardness is a difficult puzzle.⁵⁸ According to some Baloch nationalists, the Pakistani federation's centralist structure hampers the integration of ethnic minorities like the Baloch. Due to the fact that population is taken into account for allocating resources and determining representation in both elected bodies and government entities, Balochistan is not fairly represented within the federation despite accounting for 44% of Pakistan's total territory but only making up 5% of its total population.⁵⁹ In addition, it is important to note the

⁵⁸ Nadeem Akhtar, Hidayat Ullah Khan and Ma Jianfu, “Exploring the Determinants of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and Its Impact on Local Communities,” *Sage Open* 11, no. 4 (November 2021).
<https://doi.org/10.1177/21582440211057127>.

⁵⁹ S. O. Wolf, "The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor: An Assessment of its Feasibility and Impact on Regional Cooperation," 2016

geostrategic importance of Balochistan while analysing political economy of the province of Balochistan. This nationalist party also asserts that the federal government is only seeking to profit from the province's geostrategic location and economic aptitudes as a result. The federation also places little emphasis on the Baloch people's social and economic growth.

Election politics have been unable to manage Pakistan's political economy since the country has not been a continuous democracy. As a result, under the managed democracy that followed direct military control or authoritarian dictatorship, the nature and method of governing remained unwelcoming. The political and economic authority was never delegated to regional or provincial representatives; rather, it was always retained by centrist forces.⁶⁰ This resulted in a fractured political structure, particularly at the provincial level, which enhanced the local elites' existing power. Balochistan's established tribal hierarchy and social structure hindered the growth of Baloch people to develop in both politics and the economy. That led the Balochistan comparatively conservative and underdeveloped. As a result, Balochistan's societal structure remain sharply segregated between a small powerful class of tribal chieftains and illegal business mafias who remain dominant on the remaining lower class and a small group of public sector employees. A vibrant middle class that can advance its social and economic interests through aggressive politics is lacking in Baloch society. It is true to claim that the federation never intended for Balochistan to prosper and catch up to the other provinces. Balochistan's unfavorable social and economic structure, which gives local elites excessive control and trust, is also liable for obstructing the development of the nation. In sum, it is possible to argue that the local elites, representatives, and the state of Pakistan collectively have enough sway to influence

⁶⁰ Moonis Ahmar, "Strategic Meaning of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor,1," *Strategic Studies* 34 & 35, no. 4 & 1 (2014-15): 35-49.

the provincial government solely for the purpose of advancing and defending the dogmatic and monetary interests of the local elites and representatives at the expense of the general populace.

Since Balochistan's political ties to the federation have never been strong, the latter has been forced to provide it with subpar resources and with insufficient representation in all federal institutions. Understanding Balochistan's political economy is necessary to investigate the underlying causes of this peculiar link, which has persisted for decades, as well as its consequences.⁶¹

To further comprehend this presumption of the political and economic objectives of Pakistani establishment in Balochistan, one might refer to David Harvey's thesis, which he refers to as the capitalist imperialism by a state. He continues by explaining that a significant change occurred in the middle of the 20th century when nations started acquiring land where spatio-temporal fixes might be made. Balochistan is a feasible target for Pakistan with a spatiotemporal fixed interest because to its size, extremely important coastline, and excellent endowment of natural resources. When one observes the military buildup in Balochistan, it is not difficult to understand that the Pakistani state does not view it as a part of the federation. The latter, however, is something that the former is resolved to portray as her neoliberal colonialism. Dera Bughti, the region with the largest gas deposits in the country, and Kohlu, where it is believed that there are untapped amounts of significant oil and gas. The state's active engagement in the coal industry, gold and copper mining operations, and real estate ventures is another indication of the military's commercialization and resource grabbing. Multinational firms help the geographical foundation of the Pakistani military and civil bureaucracy. Balochistan has seen a significant increase in

⁶¹ Nadeem Akhtar, Hidayat Ullah Khan and Ma Jianfu, "Exploring the Determinants of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and Its Impact on Local Communities," *Sage Open* 11, no. 4 (November 2021).
<https://doi.org/10.1177/21582440211057127>

foreign investment, particularly from Chinese businesses. Baloch people are becoming increasingly poorer and unsatisfied with the condition of Pakistan, and it appears that they view the military as a colonial force manifesting flagrant self-aggrandizement.

The Balochistan region is certainly one of the poorest places in the world and its people are among the worst hit. The average renter in Balochistan earns less than a dollar a day, more than 90% of the country's settlements are in need of clean water or rehabilitative care, and more than 90% of the country's residents are clueless. It is shocking but inevitable that an ordinary Baloch is twice as devastated as an ordinary Punjabi, Pashtun or Hazara citizen in the region or even hinterland of Balochistan. Less than a third of homes in Quetta, the capital of Balochistan, are actually connected to the government water system, which provides them with one to two hours of water a day. Those who can manage it'll need to send their children to schools in Karachi, Islamabad, Lahore or Peshawar, as the instruction framework in this territory is exceptionally destitute. The proportionate is substantial for clinical hone within the locale; to a direct extent, a expansive number of individuals need to require their expired companions and family to Karachi or somewhere else for clinical treatment. When it comes to money related development, Balochistan isn't very the same as the rest of Pakistan. Whereas the rest of Pakistan offers numerous tedious employments and workforce, Balochistan.

With as it were 5% of the populace, but with strong funds, it can certainly draw in a nearby workforce. In spite of the reality that the agricultural sector, just like the rest of Pakistan, proceeds to pull in intrigued in Balochistan, its real capacity is constrained by water deficiencies. This is often since not at all like other Pakistani domains, most of Balochistan isn't connected to the Indus conduit framework to surge its endless and wealthy lands. Moreover, Balochistan gets

flood precipitation each year. Accepting this water is enough observed through built dams and canals, the region will have sufficient water to surge the dry but rich lands.

Lack of framework and human resources A particularly fundamental element of financial development is access to physical and monetary foundations. In Balochistan, even from a pessimistic perspective, such a framework does not exist and at best does not exist. Similar to any extractive economy, roads and railways were exploited for the purpose of extracting and transporting minerals and other assets. Grain and natural product farmers, cattle ranchers, and fishers all remain near poverty level because no farms are located on the street and there are no processing offices nearby in Balochistan. The British initially built the street framework for their own vital pilgrimage needs and not with the ultimate goal of improving the financial situation of Balochistan. A late street development project along the riverfront may meet important needs but their commitment to the financial development of the area is negligible.

It is impossible to improve expectations of daily comfort and no reduction of deprivation is conceivable without progress in educational attainment and principles. The high rate of ignorance and poor guidance regarding educational advancement in Balochistan is responsible for several variables. In poverty, a normal and needy individual cannot bear to send his child to school, because it would mean losing the wages the child could have earned by helping custodians of their resource activities.⁶² Due to poor teaching principles, guardians understood that children did not benefit from training and lost interest in family activities such as farming, animal husbandry and fishing. In Balochistan, it is widely accepted that the main reason children drop out of school is so that they have the opportunity to find government jobs. However, they

⁶² Nadeem Akhtar, Hidayat Ullah Khan and Ma Jianfu, "Exploring the Determinants of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and Its Impact on Local Communities," *Sage Open* 11, no. 4 (November 2021).
<https://doi.org/10.1177/21582440211057127>

also understand that the administrative profession is only for those with connections to high-ranking officials in public agencies or wealthy people who have the opportunity to offer incentives. So what is the purpose of sending your youth to school (Pakistan, other issues). There is an established relationship between lower levels of education and higher levels of need. Studies conducted in various countries in Latin America, Africa and Asia have shown that higher levels of gross domestic product spent on education lead to good teaching standards and principles more, which in turn leads to higher monetary growth and higher expectations of daily comfort. The school system in Balochistan is broken and utterly disappointing. Educational institutions are politicized, educational arrangements are made not on merit but on political grounds, and massive frauds occur in every educational institution and at every level.

1.5 NATURAL RESOURCES

Balochistan is powerful because to its richness of natural resources, notably hydrocarbon deposits, diversity of the terrain, and 750 km of (although undeveloped) coastline. Due to its control over a sizable percentage of Pakistan's mineral and energy resources and its production of 36% of the nation's total gas, Balochistan is economically significant.⁶³ There are a lot of unknown metallic and nonmetallic minerals there. Balochistan is home to sizable resources of coal, gold, copper, silver, platinum, aluminium, and uranium. Pakistan's mineral resources have the potential to make it a strong country. Balochistan is the second-largest natural gas supplier after Sindh Province. Balochistan uses around 40 of the 50 minerals that are being produced in Pakistan.⁶⁴ The majority of the minerals that are now mined in the area have been examined by Pakistan's Geological Survey. GSP made significant mineral discoveries that are currently being

⁶³ S. Rana, "China-Pakistan Economic Corridor: Lines of Development—Not Lines of Divide," *The Express Tribune*, 2015.

⁶⁴ S. O. Wolf, "China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and Its Impact on Regionalisation in South Asia," in *Regional Cooperation in South Asia*, ed: Springer, 2017, pp. 99-112.

mined, including the Saindak Copper-Gold Deposit, RekoDiq Copper-Gold Deposit, Duddar Lead-Zinc Deposit, and Dilband Iron Ore Deposit. A senior government official claims that the commercial mining of the Saindak copper-gold Deposit has increased the GDP contribution of the resource industry. In a pre-feasibility study done in association with RCD, GCP determined the following anticipated reserves of several minerals: Estimated reserves are 400 million tonnes, of which 1.7 million tonnes, or 0.4%, are copper deposits. According to the GSP main survey report, Surmai and Gunga have sizable Lead Zinc resources. The Balochistan mineral-accessible orderly sites have been identified by the Pakistani Geological Survey. Both metallic and non-metallic minerals have a significant mineral potential in Balochistan.⁶⁵

The coal deposits of Balochistan have the potential to substantially meet our nation's present and future energy needs. At Muslim Bagh and Killa Saifullah districts in Kharan, Chaghi, Khuzdar, and Lasbela, chromite resources are quite numerous. The extraction of this mineral also involves the private sector.⁶⁶ Near Khuzdar, there is a major barytes deposit with a reserve of more than 2,000,000 tonnes. Near the southernmost tip of the extinct volcano Koh-e-Sultan, in the Chaghi District, where three significant deposits combined, are the main sulphur deposits. Large marble deposits are also present in the Chaghi region. Massive marble resources may be found in the Chaghi region, which stretches from Dalbandin to the Iranian border. Some deposits are not far from the borders with Pakistan and Afghanistan. Bolan, Lasbela, and Khuzdar are also widely recognized for its marble, notably Onyx (dark green marble). Chaghai contains a very minor amount of uranium, while the above mentioned districts have platinum. In Dilband, the Pakistani Geological Survey discovered iron ore resources. Only around 30 million tons of iron ore are present in the in the mineral rich Chaghi region. According to the Geological Survey of

⁶⁵ S. Tiezzi, "Can China's Investments Bring Peace to Pakistan?," *The Diplomat*, vol. 21, 2015.

⁶⁶ H. Khan, "Is China Pakistan Economic Corridor really a game changer?," *Pakistan Today*, 2015.

Pakistan, the hematitic sedimentary ironstone deposit is at least 1 to 7 meters thick and 150 million years old. There might be greater reserves than 200 million tons. Balochistan has a wealth of limestone deposits, although the majority of the quartzite resources are in the Lasbela district. Spintangi, Sor Range, and Harnai contain the majority of the reserves. Ricko Dek (a division of Chagi) is home to the fourth-largest gold and copper deposit on earth. China is working on the RecoDiq gold and copper deposits, which are the third-largest copper deposit in the world after Sarchesmeh in Iran and Escondido in Chile. Tethyan and BHP Billiton have entered a partnership with the Balochistan government to utilize these deposit.⁶⁷

1.6 GWADAR PORT

Karachi and Qasim are Pakistan's two primary deep-water ports, both of which are used for international trade. Initiatives to increase capacity in the future won't be able to keep up with the predicted increase in demand. Therefore, it was necessary to use a third port to plug the hole. The deepest and longest coastline in Balochistan served as a reminder of Gwadar's third port location. The port of Gwadar lies 120 kilometres from the Iranian border and 533 miles from Karachi.⁶⁸ The Gwadar Port in Balochistan is situated at the entrance to the Persian Gulf, close to significant shipping channels into and out of the Gulf. Following a review of Pakistan's coastline in 1954, the US Geological Survey concluded that Gwadar would make a good location for a seaport. As a result, Pakistan's government acquired the Gawadar property from Oman, which had been in command of the port as a result of an agreement with the State of Kalat. The port

⁶⁷ M. Haider and I. Haider, "Economic corridor in focus as Pakistan, China sign 51 MoUs," Dawn, April, vol. 20, 2015.

⁶⁸ W.-P. Zingel and M. Guruswamy, "China's Pakistan option: economic and social implications of an 'all-weather relationship'," IIC Quarterly, Indian International Center (IIC): New Delhi, India, vol. 42, pp. 14-24, 2015.

was purchased for \$3,000,000 in 1958. An unimportant port was built at Gwadar between 1988 and 1992.⁶⁹

Balochistan has become well-known worldwide as a result of having the deepest Arabian Sea coastline and the growth of Gwadar port. It is situated at the confluence of South and Central Asia, and the Persian Gulf. Gwadar port acts as a gateway for CARs and China since it provides the fastest route from Quetta to Chaman to Central Asia. As a result, the United States is monitoring Gwadar as a potential future "military base," while the United Arab Emirates views the situation as challenging. With the completion of CPEC, Balochistan would play a significant part in the invasion of the Persian Gulf and south Asia.⁷⁰

The most appealing aspect of Gwadar is its crucial geopolitical and economic location as a crossroads between the East and the West that has the potential to alter the political, economic, and strategic environment. The port, which is located in the artistic Balochistan area and has a warm, deep seashore, is at the intersection of many districts, which gives it the unique characteristics that offer it these advantages. With a focus on commercial relations with countries in Central Asia, the Persian Gulf, East Africa, the United Arab Emirates, and North Western India, the port's extraordinary geography benefits practically every country in the area as well as the whole world. Afghanistan is reliant on Pakistan as well since it has limited access to the sea. Gwader port is advantageous for it since it is the sole method to connect to the outside world and can access international waters.⁷¹

⁶⁹ Farhana Shahzad, "Colonial Impact on Our Mindsets," *The Express Tribune*, October 17, 2017, <https://tribune.com.pk/story/1533047/colonial-impact-mindsets/>.

⁷⁰ Zahid Gishkori, "Aghaz-e-Haqooq Package: Reassurances aside, Much Left to Be Done in Balochistan," *The Express Tribune*, October 11, 2011, <https://tribune.com.pk/story/271533/aghaz-e-haqooq-package-reassurances-aside-much-left-to-bedone-in-balochistan/>.

⁷¹ Farhana Shahzad, "Colonial Impact on Our Mindsets," *The Express Tribune*, October 17, 2017, <https://tribune.com.pk/story/1533047/colonial-impact-mindsets/>.

The construction of the Gwader coastal city was not accorded top precedence on the national outline of economic corridor.⁷² While first phase is finished, the second phase, which includes several other concurrent projects like the network of railroads, industrial and economic zone are not yet finished. If Pakistan follows the crucial actions listed below in establishing Gwader port, Pakistan can become an economic hub after completion of the port:

- Balochistan's law and order situation has to be improved in order to safeguard the port of Gwader.⁷³
- Pakistan's international, domestic, and economic policies should be shaped in favour of the port of Gwadar. Only by prioritising these actions and making an effort to build strong, constructive relationships with neighbours as well as the rest of the world political system will Gwadar port be able to develop, improve, and increase Pakistan's economic and strategic position in the area.⁷⁴

In addition to a port, China has assisted Pakistan in developing an industrial complex and a network of infrastructure. Gwader Port has been the subject of complaints. Chinese interference in Pakistan's affairs is seen as a political risk by the US and India since it has raised new doubts. As a result, tensions between the US and a number of Middle Eastern countries have increased, and the Global War on Terror (GWOT) has only made them worse.⁷⁵ To protect its own national interests, the US has maintained a military presence in the region. China's participation in Gwader, in India's opinion, presents a danger from three directions: Tibet, Myanmar, and

⁷² Ibid

⁷³ Zahid Gishkori, "Aghaz-e-Haqooq Package: Reassurances aside, Much Left to Be Done in Balochistan," *The Express Tribune*, October 11, 2011, <https://tribune.com.pk/story/271533/aghaz-e-haqooq-package-reassurances-aside-much-left-to-bedone-in-balochistan/>.

⁷⁴ Ibid

⁷⁵ Nadeem Akhtar, Hidayat Ullah Khan and Ma Jianfu, "Exploring the Determinants of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and Its Impact on Local Communities," *Sage Open* 11, no. 4 (November 2021). <https://doi.org/10.1177/21582440211057127>.

Pakistan. Iran believes that by diverting traffic away from Iranian ports, the port can deprive it of its economic advantages. With help from India, Iran built Chabahar, its own port, to avoid this from happening. Iran also created a strategy to facilitate commerce to and from Central Asia. The modern Gwadar is seen as a threat to the Balochistani tribes' way of existence as well.⁷⁶

1.7 DEARTH OF ECONOMIC AUTONOMY AND CONTROL OVER RESOURCES

Other than agriculture and industry, mineral assets, tourist opportunities, and beachfront developments are other potential outcomes of Balochistan's financial development. People in the area are able to manage their own financial affairs, but they have little control over their traditional possessions. The Sui Gas case serves as an excellent illustration of Balochistan's history of financial fraud. In the 1950s, flammable gasoline was discovered on the Sui site in the Dera Bughti Locale of Balochistan. It was supplied for regardless of the regions of Pakistan from Balochistan, where the usage was permitted about 30 years in a short period. Any excess minerals and common assets identified in Balochistan should be obvious in a close to case scenario. The Sandak Copper and Rek - e - Dik gold-copper projects independently in Chagi Region are another example of Balochistan asset abuse carried out by Pakistani experts with the assistance of regular businesses. In order to transfer the Sandak Undertaking, the federal government synchronized with a Chinese partnership in 2002. According to the plan, the Chinese company would receive 80% of the complete advantages at home, pay 18% to the Pakistani government's central organization, and give just 2% to the Balochistan government in the form of differentiation fees. Colonial economies in the past have been exploitative. Natural resources from the colony are extracted and sent in raw form to the home countries or regions, where they

⁷⁶ Moonis Ahmar, "Strategic Meaning of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor,1," *Strategic Studies* 34 & 35, no. 4 & 1 (2014-15): 35-49.

are processed into finished goods. The colonial population as a result endures extreme poverty because they are unable of doing even rudimentary tasks in the raw material processing. Balochistan hasn't made an effort to develop an industry that would transform locally generated raw materials into finished goods. Shipping coal to other Pakistani provinces for direct use as a fuel source or for conversion into other fuels like electricity has no economic basis. This is crucial given the chronic electricity shortages and hour-long outages Balochistan is now experiencing.

It is not economically possible to transport hundreds of tonnes of unprocessed marble stone, chromites, baryte, iron ore, shale, copper blister, and other minerals to Karachi or other sites outside the region. Additionally, as there are no fish processing facilities along the 750 km of the Balochistan coast, there is no economic justification for carrying millions of tonnes of fish from Balochistan to Karachi for processing and canning. Because there are no fruit processing facilities in Balochistan, the loss of tons of locally cultivated fruits and vegetables is also not economically justifiable.

Geographically speaking, connecting southwest and northwest Asia, Balochistan is situated in the cultural, social, economic, and geographical intersection of the Middle East, Central and South Asia just across from the Straits of Hormuz. The province has the potential to develop into an economic powerhouse with major private industrial investment if these potentials were realized via the adoption of a sound industrial policy. The Straits of Hormuz are said to be used for the daily transportation of about 17 million barrels of crude oil. The province, which shares 900 km of border with Iran and 1200 km of border with Afghanistan, "opens access to these mineral-rich and strategically significant areas." It also acts as an entrance to the Punjab and KP, two provinces that are resource-rich yet are also landlocked. Balochistan's geographic position

places it at a crossroads for potential intra- and interregional trade. Physical proximity to Central Asian regions' oil and gas reserves increases its strategic significance. Balochistan yet remains one of the least developed regions in the world despite having a plethora of natural resources due of Pakistan's flagrant misinterpretation of economic progress.

Political instability prevents economic development and investment from occurring. Balochistan was turbulent for the most of its history with Pakistan for the reasons indicated above. As a result, Balochistan has never lacked for an attractive investment climate as it does now. When there is no peace and stability, neither domestic nor international investors are prepared to make investments anywhere in Balochistan, let alone in the provincial capital, let alone in the interior districts. In reality, a lot of business prospects have been lost recently, and some have even shut down, like the Sariab Textile Mills and the Harnai Woollen Mills, which had employed hundreds of people in Balochistan. They probably stopped down due to government policies and a lack of security. In terms of giving Baloch citizens work chances, Hub Industrial Estate has not been very helpful to Balochistan. In actuality, the majority of the industries in the Hub area are subsidiaries or extensions of those situated in Karachi. By settling in Balochistan, the industrialists hoped to receive tax breaks without giving the locals there employment possibilities.

Balochistan has always been under the strong political and economic control of tribal sardars and chieftains due to its tribal and semi-tribal social structure. The usual tribal lord dominance over provincial politics hampered the development and expansion of the political system, which may have opened the door for wider involvement by the general populace. Therefore, it would be reasonable to claim that the establishment of the political and economic dominance of small elite is what gave rise to the current institutional system. And these rent-seeking elite it has produced

has solidified significant power and pushed the provincial economy in the direction of greater exclusivity.

In terms of comparative advantage and prospective economic growth sectors, Balochistan and the rest of Pakistan differ significantly from one another. It is comparatively underdeveloped in terms of its human capital growth, agricultural development, and industrial investment as compare to the rest of Pakistan. Balochistan's potential for growth in the service industries needs to be integrated with the national economy and other regional economies.

Any civilization may attain wealth and higher standards of living through increasing production. The output per unit of input is known as productivity. The value of the products and services produced over the course of a year is first calculated, and the result is then divided by either the entire labour force or the total number of hours worked to generate the goods and services. Thailand, for instance, had a per capita income of \$14,394 in 2013.⁷⁷ In that year, Thailand's worker productivity was 8.54 GDP (PPP) per hour. In comparison, Pakistan's worker productivity in the same year was just 1.98, which is far lower than that of any middle-income country. In the same year, Pakistan's per capita income was \$4.602.⁷⁸

Why Balochistan's production is so poor is a mystery. The pace at which the economy adds to its stock of capital (machines, equipment, and buildings), the pace at which technology advances, and the pace at which work force quality, or human capital, advances are the three main factors that determine a country's labour productivity growth rate. Baloch workers often lack formal education, use low levels of capital, and utilise archaic technologies, which results in

⁷⁷ Moonis Ahmar, "Strategic Meaning of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor,1," *Strategic Studies* 34 & 35, no. 4 & 1 (2014-15): 35-49.

⁷⁸ S. O. Wolf, "China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and Its Impact on Regionalization in South Asia," in *Regional Cooperation in South Asia*, ed: Springer, 2017, pp. 99-112.

low worker productivity. Pakistan is a famous example of "economic growth without development," where a respectable rate of economic growth has been attained without sufficient social sector development, due to the weak and dysfunctional social sector. The nation as a whole has struggled to make progress in all areas of social sector development during the past 65 years, notably in the province of Balochistan, which trails other provinces in all social sector metrics. The country's inability to use the benefits of economic prosperity to enhance the bulk of the population is primarily to blame for the bad status of the social sector. As proposed by modern growth theories and put into practice by many nations, Pakistan appears to have trouble understanding that strong, sustained economic growth depends on a highly skilled, educated, and healthy labour population. For instance, the growth and development experiences of nations like Korea, Thailand, Malaysia, and Singapore reveal the startling truth that economic progress is exceedingly difficult to maintain itself in the absence of social sector development. Pakistan trails considerably behind these nations in practically all measures of social and human development.⁷⁹

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the Human Development Index (HDI) both use education and healthcare as essential indicators since they are seen as being crucial to the overall development of society. According to Pakistan's progress on the MDGs, the nation has chosen 16 objectives and 41 indicators that serve as benchmarks for how well it is doing in reaching the MDGs' Eight Goals. Time series data for 33 of these indicators show that Pakistan is on pace to meet its goals for 9 of them, but that its development on 24 of them is off course.

⁷⁹ S. O. Wolf, "China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and Its Impact on Regionalization in South Asia," in *Regional Cooperation in South Asia*, ed: Springer, 2017, pp. 99-112.

Balochistan regularly performs the poorest when performance is evaluated at the province level across nearly all MDG categories. No MDG can be fully achieved in the province at the current rate of progress, and given the effects of the floods and the country's deteriorating economic and security situation after 2007, even the progress that has already been made in a few indicators or in a few districts runs the risk of being undone. The performance of Balochistan is generally extremely worrying, but it is notably below the national average for nearly all indicators related to health and education. A significant performance disparity is seen in Balochistan, where 43% of children are underweight compared to a target of 20%. The neonatal death rate in Balochistan is startlingly high by national norms, and the country also does poorly on five metrics of children's mortality. All indices of progress towards MDG 5 are notably far behind; with the maternal mortality ratio of 785 deaths per 100,000 live births, quick action is required.⁸⁰

Democracy and accountability are only two of the essential elements needed for economic development and success. Balochistan is severely affected by problems with a lack of democratic institutions and accountability, however these problems exist throughout Pakistan. The opportunity to fully participate in the process of making decisions about how to handle their own affairs has never been provided to the Baloch people.⁸¹ Federal institutions interfere with Balochistan's elections and rig the results in favour of specific political factions, not the will of the Baloch people. Additionally, the federal government also appoints the governor, who is typically from outside the province and is more devoted to the federal government than the Baloch people.⁸² The provincial governments that were established in Balochistan weren't

⁸⁰ Khalid Manzoor Butt and Anam Abid Butt, "Impact of CPEC on Regional and Extra-Regional Actors," *The Journal of Political Science* 33 (2015): 23-44.

⁸¹ Moonis Ahmar, "Strategic Meaning of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor,1," *Strategic Studies* 34 & 35, no. 4 & 1 (2014-15): 35-49.

⁸² Manzoor Khan Afridi and Iram Khalid, "The Politics of Interdependence: A Case of China-Pakistan

always those that the Baloch people had elected, weren't always those that were sincere and honest in their efforts to better the lives of the Baloch people, but rather those that the central government believed could best advance the establishment's interests in the province. For instance, the democratically elected administrations from 1973 and 1997 were overthrown on the grounds that they had not shown enough loyalty to or obedience to the federal government. In order to ensure that only candidates supported by the "establishment" could form a government in Balochistan, the establishment of Pakistan either completely or partially manipulated elections. Those in power in Balochistan would not be held accountable to the people of Balochistan if they were brought to power and kept there by sources other than the Baloch people. This condition also encourages corruption among the provincial leaders and worsens poverty and hardship for Balochistan's common population.⁸³

⁸³ Nadeem Akhtar, Hidayat Ullah Khan and Ma Jianfu, "Exploring the Determinants of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and Its Impact on Local Communities," *Sage Open* 11, no. 4 (November 2021).
<https://doi.org/10.1177/21582440211057127>

CHAPTER 2

CHINA-PAKISTAN ECONOMIC CORRIDOR (CPEC) AND BALOCHISTAN

2.1 AN OVERVIEW OF CHINA –PAKISTAN RELATIONS

Diplomatic ties between China and Pakistan were established in 1950.⁸⁴ Pakistan was the first Muslim state to recognize People’s Republic of China as an international sovereign.⁸⁵ In last seven decades, diplomatic relations of China and Pakistan evolved absolutely through mutual interests. Together, they have made significant efforts to strengthen their bond of friendship. Sino-Pak ties are often labelled as ‘all-weather friendship’ by both China and Pakistan. Former Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif said, “The China-Pakistan all-weather strategic partnership has always been rock solid and unshakable.”⁸⁶ Likewise, Nong Rong, Chinese ambassador to Pakistan said, “China and Pakistan iron-clad friendship is rock-solid.”⁸⁷ Both back each other on national, regional and global apprehensions. China gave support to Pakistan during war time against India, whereas, Pakistan supports China on issues of Xinjiang, Taiwan and Tibet.

Sino-Pakistan bilateral ties have many folds; military, diplomatic, economic, infrastructure etc. China is the major arms purveyor for Pakistan. Pakistan depends on China for transmission of high technology and savoir-faire. China handed over thirty-six M9 ballistic missiles to Pakistan in 1992. Other joint Sino-Pak military projects includes JF-17, K-8

⁸⁴ S. O. Wolf, "China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and Its Impact on Regionalization in South Asia," in *Regional Cooperation in South Asia*, ed: Springer, 2017, pp. 99-112.

⁸⁵ Ibid

⁸⁶ “Sino-Pak all-weather friendship rock solid, unshakeable: Wang Wenbin,” *Pakistan Today*, June 17, 2022. <https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2022/06/17/sino-pak-all-weather-friendship-rock-solid-unshakeable-wang-wenbin/>

⁸⁷ “China and Pakistan iron-clad friendship is rock-solid,” *The Nation*, May 22, 2022. <https://www.nation.com.pk/22-May-2022/china-and-pakistan-iron-clad-friendship-is-rock-solid>.

Karakorum advance training aircraft, Al Khalid Tanks, Babur cruise missiles, F-22 naval frigates, AWACS (Airborne Warning and Control System) etc. Parallel to this, Pakistan's Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) in developing space technology, and Heavy Rebuild Factory (HRF) at Taxila are the results of Sino-Pak cooperation. According to Chinese Defense Minister, General Liang , "China values its traditional friendship with Pakistan. China intends to develop pragmatic and effective cooperation with Pakistan in national defense arena. He further added "all-weather friendship" held between China and Pakistan is a strategic choice and is in accordance with fundamental interests of both nations. China wants to safeguard regional peace and stability with Pakistan and contribute to the security and development of two countries; China wants to make Pakistan self-reliant and does not desire to keep it dependent on China."⁸⁸

In addition to military assistance, both the nations pay much attention to strengthen their economic ties. Investment from China is very important for the development of Pakistan's economy. China and Pakistan are good trading partners. Pakistan is the first South Asian country to have FTA (Free Trade Agreement) with China. Although Pakistan's military cooperation with China has history of six decades, yet our economic relations emerge significantly in last 20 years (2000-till today), these years can idiosyncratically be labelled as the years of "Institutionalization of Pak-China Economic Relations including Karakoram Highway, Pakistan Aeronautical Complex, Gwadar Deep Sea Port, Chashma Nuclear Power Plant, Indus Highway, THAR Coal Development, Saindak Metal Project.

⁸⁸ "China and Pakistan iron-clad friendship is rock-solid," The Nation, May 22, 2022.
<https://www.nation.com.pk/22-May-2022/china-and-pakistan-iron-clad-friendship-is-rock-solid>.

2.2 CPEC AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE FOR BALOCHISTAN

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has opened up umpteen opportunities for the natives of Balochistan. According to the facts and figures shared by Pakistan's Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform, with initial investment of 7.1 billion USD under CPEC projects, province of Balochistan has second largest share in the total investment of forty-six billion USD.⁸⁹ Balochistan in its entirety is the kingpin of CPEC. The economic corridor definitely contributes significantly in the development of entire Balochistan and help in mitigation of multiple socio-economic problems of the province. Due to geography of Gwadar, it is envisioned that the port would be transformed into industrial zone, economic hub, and a storage capacity.⁹⁰



Gwadar is at the edge of the Iranian Plateau and serves as a gateway to the oil-rich Persian Gulf. The port also makes it simple to get to the power and mineral resources of the Central

⁸⁹ S. O. Wolf, "China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and Its Impact on Regionalisation in South Asia," in *Regional Cooperation in South Asia*, ed: Springer, 2017, pp. 99-112.

⁹⁰ Ibid

Asian states and the western part of China. The strategic location of Gwadar has the potential to establish Pakistan as a regional economic and trade hub.⁹¹ Pakistan has the potential to achieve such an important international status. The prime interests of China vis-à-vis CPEC are:

- Despite China's vast land area, the country does not have a year-round useable port with warm waters.
- The Chinese industrial approach travels nearly 16000 kilometers to the Shinghai port, which requires a sea journey of two to three months. This sets them back a ton as expenses, taxes, customs and duties. On the other hand, despite the fact that the Gwadar port is only 2500 kilometers from China (Xinjiang, western China), the hot waters here keep the port open year-round.
- The economy of China is dependent on oil from the Gulf, which travels a long distance to Shanghai before being transported to western China over thousands of miles at a high cost. It will be less expensive, safer, and shorter for China if it uses Gwadar port first and then Karakoram highway.
- From Balochistan, China wants to seize control of the global powers.
- China can overcome the insurgency atmosphere in Xinjiang province and develop its western region.

In this age of globalization, no one can live alone. Economic corridors connect economic resources along a distinct energetic location. These routes provide crucial connections between commercial hubs or nodes, which typically are concentrated in urban areas. Through their network effects, they can play a part in the expansion of the regional economy. The uber

⁹¹ "Sino-Pak all-weather friendship rock solid, unshakeable: Wang Wenbin," *Pakistan Today*, June 17, 2022. <https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2022/06/17/sino-pak-all-weather-friendship-rock-solid-unshakeable-wang-wenbin/>

undertaking of Pak-China financial hallway was to be an achievement in cultivating Sino-Pak ties. The CPEC, which was running from Pakistan's Gwader port to China's Kashghar port, will broaden Pakistan's and China's existing robust bilateral ties. Through CPEC, Pakistan is at a crossroads where it can use every tool at its disposal to gain numerous advantages for its present and future prospects. By developing new towns, trade centers, and industries, this corridor will result in the creation of new employment opportunities. It will expand Chinese influence to the neighboring East, South, Central, and Western Asian regions and alter the geo-economic trade patterns in this region that will benefit from this project in the future. It will develop into an economic community and energy corridor linking China to the Indian Ocean. China wants to encourage Pakistan's economic growth by using its "Belt and Road" strategy as a profitable growth strategy.

"Economic corridors are culture or trade agreements and treaties, statutes, delegated legislation, and customs that govern and guide trading relationships, institutions and structures or movement of products, services, and information in geographic proximity among people in and across borders," stated by Matrix, a researcher from the United States.⁹² Friendship ties between Pakistan and China have been strong for a long time, as evidenced by their geographical proximity, which speeds up trans-regional trade. Over the years, Pakistan and China have developed strong economic ties, and trade collaborations. China has continuously evolved as Pakistan's significant exchanging accomplice terms of commodities and imports. A free trade agreement between China and Pakistan was signed in 2006, but it went into effect on July 1, 2007.⁹³ Through this agreement, Pakistan gained market entry for numerous direct export

⁹² "China and Pakistan iron-clad friendship is rock-solid," The Nation, May 22, 2022.
<https://www.nation.com.pk/22-May-2022/china-and-pakistan-iron-clad-friendship-is-rock-solid>.

⁹³ Ibid

concerns' products. According to the statistical data, bilateral trade between China and Pakistan was 4.1 billion US dollars in 2006-2007 and 9.2 billion US dollars in 2012-2013.⁹⁴ CPEC is the most significant and historic agreement Pakistan and China have ever reached. The concept of an economic corridor was developed in Pakistan during the time of President Musharraf's administration. The task was to connect Kashgar to Gwadar by the new web of highways of Indus and Karakoram, and advance further connecting it across the line with Focal Asian states giving the expense and time productive chain of supply for exchange inside the area.

It is said that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will boost trade and economic cooperation with the region. In the future, this corridor will be China's primary trade gateway as well as that of the entire region. The future of regional cooperation between China, South and Central Asia, and the rest of the world, as well as this economic corridor, is to be considered. By expanding important trade routes between China and Pakistan, as well as between the entirety of Asia and the regions that are adjacent, this project has the potential to empower half of the world's population in Asia. Pakistan's Prime Minister paid a visit to China in July 2013 to maintain traditional friendship and strengthen friendly ties. During his visit to Pakistan in 2013, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang displayed a great deal of enthusiasm for this enormous project. During his visit, the words "Pakistan-China friendship is higher than the mountains, deeper than the oceans, sweeter than honey, and stronger than steel" were highlighted on signboards in Islamabad to indicate the friendship between Pakistan and China. During the visit of the Chinese president, the government of PML(N) Nawaz Sharif not only attempted to discuss regional issues and the geostrategic location of the CPEC in order to strengthen communication with the

⁹⁴ "Sino-Pak all-weather friendship rock solid, unshakeable: Wang Wenbin," *Pakistan Today*, June 17, 2022. <https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2022/06/17/sino-pak-all-weather-friendship-rock-solid-unshakeable-wang-wenbin/>

construction of that economic corridor, but it also attempted to strengthen bilateral strategic relations with China, the "all-weather friend." A significant elevate was gotten in Feb, 2013 when Gwader port was given under Chinese control and different arrangements were agreed upon. Following are the some paramount projects under CPEC:

- Development of an international airport in Gwader city.
- Upgrading the KKH section that runs from Rajkot to Islamabad and covers 1300 kilometers.
- Construction of an optical fiber cable system that connects Pakistan and China across the border.
- The EngroThar Coal Fired Power Plant.
- Agreement on Sukhi-Kinari Hydro Power Project.
- Construction of motorway from Karachi to Lahore,
- Construction of Hawaiian Dry Port.

This huge project has strong support from both the Zardari government and the Nawaz Sharif government. Pakistan will be able to reap the economic benefits of this trade corridor if it diligently pursues this potential. This corridor will show China a more valuable long-term ally and significantly increase Pakistan's regional power. By incorporating Chinese ideas into the development of an economic corridor, Pakistan can create a futuristic regional economic bloc. The massive CPEC project aims to connect Gwader port with Xinjiang (Kashghar, China) over a distance of approximately 3,000 kilometers using a mechanized transportation network and transform it into an energy and economic corridor. From Gwader port to the western part of China, the FWO has completed 502 kilometers of an 870-kilometer road. This project is an annex to China's futuristic Silk Road proposal for the 21st century and may be considered

China's largest investment. It is possible that this strategic project will serve as a tool to alter the regional strategic game. Pakistan will become a regional economic hub and nucleus thanks to this project, which will strengthen ties between Pakistan and China. The Government of Pakistan and media has entitled this project as “the Game and Fate changer” for the region. The Guardian reported, "The Chinese are not just bestowing to build much-needed infrastructure but also make Pakistan a strategic partner in its striking economic and strategic goals.”

China was making investment of forty-six billion USD in Pakistan.⁹⁵ It is the biggest foreign investment that China has ever made. CPEC is an amalgamation of megaprojects, aimed to link Gwadar port of Pakistan to Xinjiang province of China through web of motorways and highways, railroads and pipelines for the transportation of hydrocarbons.

From Pakistani side, idea of economic corridor was first proposed by President Zardari to Chinese counterparts.⁹⁶ However, Chinese Premier Li keqiang publically proposed CPEC on his official visit to Pakistan in May 2013.⁹⁷ In same year, CPEC Secretariat was established in Islamabad. In early 2014, Former President Mamnoon Hussain went to China in order to discuss the blueprints of CPEC. Just after the president’s visit, PM Nawaz Sharif went to China to discuss further details of the plan. As part of CPEC, the Chinese government declared at the end of 2014 that it will provide financing to Chinese businesses to construct energy and infrastructure projects totaling \$45.6 billion in Pakistan including \$33.8 billion in energy projects and \$11.8 billion in infrastructure projects. The agreement includes \$622 million for the Gwadar Port and \$15.5 billion in coal, wind, solar, and hydro energy projects boosting Pakistan's national grid's capacity by 10,400 megawatts.

⁹⁵ Robert O. Keohane, Joseph S. Nye, “Review: Power and Interdependence Revisited,” *International Organization* 41, no. 4 (Autumn 1987): 725-753.

⁹⁶ Ibid

⁹⁷ Khan, Hafeez Ullah. "Regional security threats to CPEC: a strategic overview." *Journal of the*

Right after two years of proposition of the initial plan, in April 2015 both countries made historic move of announcing CPEC during the visit of Chinese president in Islamabad.⁹⁸ The \$46 billion deal, which represents almost 20% of Pakistan's yearly GDP, was signed between Pakistan and China. The undertaking expiry time was by the year 2030. In order to achieve win-win outcomes and shared development, both parties committed to establish a "1+4" pattern of economic cooperation. The principles of scientific planning, methodical execution, reaching consensus through dialogue, mutual benefit and win-win outcomes, as well as assuring quality, safety, and environmental preservation, were acknowledged by all parties.

2.3 NATURE OF CPEC

The China–Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has been designated a major node of the “Belt and Road” Initiative of China by President Xi Jinping that aims at land-based Eurasian integration (Silk Road Economic Belt) and maritime (21st Century Maritime Silk Road) Afro-Eurasian integration. President Xi Jinping said, “CPEC is based on “1+4” cooperation structure with the Economic Corridor at the center and the Gwadar Port, energy, infrastructure and industrial cooperation being the four key areas to drive development across Pakistan and deliver tangible benefits to its people”. This comprehensive project is amalgamation of various mega projects. The detail of these mega projects are as follows.

- **DEVELOPMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE:** The Infrastructure projects include the road construction connecting Pakistan through Karakorum Highway, Havelian-Thakot, Karachi-Lahore-Motorway- Multan to Sukkur, the Gwadar Port East Bay Expressway

⁹⁸ “Sino-Pak all-weather friendship rock solid, unshakeable: Wang Wenbin,” *Pakistan Today*, June 17, 2022. <https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2022/06/17/sino-pak-all-weather-friendship-rock-solid-unshakeable-wang-wenbin/>

and the Gwadar International Airport. For these government-to-government projects, Chinese government provided concessional loans to the government of Pakistan.

- **DEVELOPMENT OF ENERGY SECTOR:** The Various Power Projects of as much as 10,000 mw were mainly allocated to private sector of both the countries, envisioning cooperation between Chinese and Pakistani private companies.
- **OTHER PROJECTS:** There were also projects in domain of communications, broadcasting, banking and finance, health, climate change and education and research.
- **MILITARY COOPERATION:** The mutual seriousness of China and Pakistan about the development of the Corridor was evidenced by the formation of the Economic Corridor Support Force comprising one division of Pakistan Army of about nine battalions (about 8000-10000 troops, 6 wings (between 70 and 144 aircraft) and civil armed forces, which will further strengthen the military cooperation among the partners.
- **GAME CHANGER:** CPEC has been termed as the “game changer” for Pakistan. According to government and media, it was aimed to broaden and deepen the framework of overall cooperation between the two countries through economic partnership. The Corridor was envisioned to integrate the Chinese and Pakistani economies and boost trade which has already reached USD 12 billion to reach USD 20 billion dollars in the next few years. It also aimed to facilitate China’s trade-based and energy-based integration with the Middle East and beyond. It was said to be an instantiation of China’s “Marching Westward” strategy to counter the American Pivot to Asia and its economic avatar, Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).

Geostrategic location of Pakistan is country's biggest strength. Pakistan lies between the three engines of growth: China- world's leading economy; Central Asian Republics (CARs); South-East Asia and Indian Ocean. By 2050, Asia is visioned to be contributing fifty percent of the global GDP. Recently, CPEC was labelled as icon of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) by Chinese Foreign Minister. Therefore, Pakistan have maximum benefits out of Asia's rising economic growth. Government of Pakistan is working on the alignment of vision of Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan to improve academic circle and cycle. HEC is working on faculty and professional enhancement projects to ensure maximum engagement of Pakistani nationals in CPEC projects. CPEC has a total trade of three trillion USD, whereas China's investment on BRI was fifty billion USD. BRI is gradually expanding to fifty economic zones in twenty countries, out of that nine are in Pakistan. In next five years, China has planned short research tours for twenty-five hundred Pakistani scientists to explore various areas and dimensions of CPEC. Similarly, fifty-four hundred people will get trainings to support CPEC projects. Till date, CPEC has created eighty-five thousand jobs.

Global growth is based on cycle of development: when United States got economic strength and local labour became expensive, Japan took advantage by providing US with cheap labour and services; similarly, when Japan made progress, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore took the opportunity to rise economically; consequently, China emerged as an economic power; now it is high time for Pakistan to not only make best out of China's economic prosperity for itself, but also facilitate developing nations that are working on BRI. Pakistan has incremental growth of two percent. Pakistan's current GDP growth rate is 5.6 percent and it is imperative for Pakistan to reach seven percent to compete with neighbouring countries. India has GDP rate of 6.8 percent; therefore, this gap should addressed immediately, otherwise it is difficult for

Pakistan to cope the gap. China has total trade of 4.1 trillion USD (outbound trade of 2.3 trillion and inbound trade of 1.8 trillion USD). CPEC caters five percent of China's total trade. Moreover, CPEC will generate 205 million USD only through transshipments. CPEC facilitate china to get connected with supply chain and aid in enhancing our textile industry and agriculture sector.

Ministry of planning is the focal ministry for the CPEC projects that has dedicated a separate unit called CPEC Secretariat to look after the CPEC projects. Pakistani government has set targets and time lines to attain the desired goals of CPEC. Pakistan has economically prosperous and bring industrial development, and work on areas that supplements industrial growth. Pakistan has categorized CPEC timeline into three phases: cultivation phase till 2020; developmental phase till 2025; and phase of maturity till 2030.

Government of Pakistan has identified energy scarcity and poor infrastructure as two bottlenecks that are hindrances in the industrial traffic of the country. Pakistan has less ratio of power generation in comparison to less developed countries. We need twelve percent incremental growth in energy sector to meet our requirements. Fifteen energy projects of twenty-one billion USD are already in progress. Due to insufficient hydel power stations and dams, presently Pakistan is relying on imported coal, but in next six to eight years the country will have sufficient dams to switch on hydel energy. Pakistan has also started working on Thar coal projects to cut the reliability on imported coal. By 2030, Pakistan's imported component to generate energy will reduce to less than thirty percent. Energy surplus will also ensure the supply of power at cheap rates. Moreover, Pakistan being the signatory of UN developmental goals is emphasising on environment friendly ways of generating power. Pakistan established its first wind power plant project in 2017. Additionally, all the projects of more than 620 megawatts are

constructed on super critical technology and have zero carbon emission. Next year, nine more projects will be inaugurated that are purely Independent Power Producers (IPP) and based on private investments. Parallel to bridging the energy deficit and improving infrastructure, Pakistan's 2025 objective is to improve agriculture and tourism sector. Special attention is given to land tourism in Northern areas and maritime tourism on coastline of Pakistan. Gwadar Airport and Railroads; ML1, ML2, and ML3 will be completed by 2030. All the mentioned above initiatives will help Pakistan to get connected with China's supply chain.

Since 2015 to 2021, Pakistan was the fastest growing economy in the Muslim world with annual GDP rate of 5.8 percent. Pakistan has population of two hundred and six million with a sizeable number of middle class. Middle class always brings opportunities for investors. In CPEC energy projects, 66% are Pakistani and 34% Chinese workers. Pakistan aimed to engage 80 % Pakistanis in the projects, but it could not happen due to lack of expertise required to handle latest technology used in CPEC projects. To manage the issue, Pakistan has sent twenty-two thousand students in China for study. In 2018, 150 scholars came back to Pakistan after completing studies and research in China. Pakistan has well reputed stature in transport infrastructure, as observable in middle-East, therefore in transport infrastructure sector of CPEC, 92% are Pakistanis and 7.2% are Chinese. Presently twenty-two thousand Pakistanis and nine thousand Chinese are working on CPEC projects. Current speed of Pakistan's railways is 65Km/hr that would be increased to 150 km/hr in coming six years. More benefit can be attained by doubling the track. It was not only benefit the civil population but also the military of Pakistan. Similarly, road infrastructure was improved, and speed was increased by four folds. The network of roads and railroads not only enhance the local connectivity but also link China, Iran and Pakistan.

In 2018, Pakistan was working on medium and large size industry. Pakistan is also looking for third country partnership with china. All the projects was private projects and locals of Pakistan will get benefits out of it. Government of Pakistan has launched a CPEC university support program that engages various universities in CPEC projects. Currently, The Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering, and Management Sciences (BUITEMS), Confucius Business School, National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), COMSATS University, and Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) are the part of this program. ML1 is attached with University of Engineering and Technology (UET), Taxila and Lahore, and when this project will move southward, universities based in Sindh will get attached.

All the provinces are working hand in gloves to transform blueprints of CPEC into practical reality. CPEC was comprised of six economic zones. Punjab, KP, Sindh and Islamabad are allocated with one zone each, whereas Balochistan is allocated with two economic zones. Pakistan had vertical services sector. Eighty percent of the projects are export led, environment friendly and have life span of twenty years and more. In addition to that eighty percent of human resource involved in these projects will be Pakistani nationals. Pakistan is seriously working on catering the economic deficit. In last two years, Pakistan has made forty-five percent progress in steel industry, thirty-five percent in tourism and cement industry, and forty-five percent in services sector.

No concrete development is possible without developing the coastline. Gwadar is aimed to be transformed into industrial hub and storage capacity. Major areas of Gwadar development plan are oil refinery, fisheries, maritime university and vocational training institute, maritime sector special economic zone, petrochemical industry, light manufacturing industry, textile

industry, commercial shipyard and fresh water facility. Pakistan Navy, through Bahria University has an opportunity to be a partner with maritime university and vocational training institute. Likewise, Pakistan Navy invest in fresh water facility. Presently, daily fresh water supply to Gwadar is about six million gallons that will increase by two folds in 2030.

Media has propagated misconception about the nature of CPEC, though, only six billion USD projects are based on loans and rest is purely project investment. It is presumed that Pakistan’s mounting debts are results of CPEC, however, it is untrue. Steep decline in Pakistan’s economy is due to socio-economic reasons. No repayment on CPEC projects has started yet. China has approved loan of six billion USD on only 2.9% of interest rate, and Pakistan is liable to return the loan in twenty-five years. The repayment of loan will start by 2030; moreover projects also have grace period of additional five to seven years for repayment.

2.4 THE SCOPE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF CPEC PROJECTS FOR BALOCHISTAN



The people of Balochistan was able to take advantage of new opportunities thanks to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Balochistan comes in second in terms of CPEC investment, accounting for 46 billion USD of the estimated 7.1 billion USD. Despite its abundance of mineral resources, Balochistan has not yet made a significant contribution to Pakistan's economy. As a result, this has impacted Balochistan's growth. The poor population and rugged terrain were two of the main contributors to this. Turbat, for instance, has only 180,000 inhabitants and the most challenging terrain of the western Balochistan route. Pangjur is a district in the west of Balochistan. It has three tehsils and has about 350,000 people living there. In the areas where roads have been constructed, property values have skyrocketed as a result of the western CPEC route's construction. The infrastructural development and the construction of road network boost the economic activities in other cities like Qalat, Quetta, and Zhob. This "game changer" project connected local markets from China to Asia, and Middle-East to Europe, and opening up new business sectors with tremendous exchange potential, from regional to intra-regional, worth billions of dollars.

One of the four pillars of CPEC is Gwadar; the other three are industrial development, energy sector and infrastructure. As all four pillars along the western route that will pass through Balochistan will strengthen Pakistan politically, socially and economically, and Balochistan in particular. The major cities of Balochistan such as Quetta, Gwadar, Khuzdar, Uthal, Hub, and Dera Murad Jamali are part of industrial zones planned in Balochistan under CPEC. Likewise, planned mineral monetary handling zones are being established in cities of Khuzdar, Chaghi, Qila Saifullah, Saindak, Reko Diq, Qalat, Lasbel, Gwadar and Muslim Bagh.⁹⁹ Gwadar, which

⁹⁹ Ali, Akber. "China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC): Prospects and challenges for regional.

was being developed to connect China and Pakistan to West Asia, the Middle East, and Africa, has a coastline and a natural harbor. It is strategically situated at the intersection of sea lanes. Pakistan will become a regional hub for trade, transportation, and economic activity as Gwadar transforms into both a conduit and a destination for new investment. The port will act as a catalyst for massive industrial production. The following plans have been scheduled in Balochistan under CPEC:

- **LAND ALLOCATION FOR FREE ZONE:** Around 923 Hectare of land has been procured by the Gwadar Port Authority through lease agreement that was endorsed during the visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping in April 2015. The "Acquisition of Land for Gwadar Port Free Trade Zone" project was previously approved by the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council in June 2014, at a cost of Rs 6.499 billion. The project documents for the initial Free Zone project and the master plan for the entire Free Zone have been finalized by China Overseas Ports Holding Company and its subsidiary, Gwadar Free Zone Company.
- **FREE ZONE PLAN FOR GWADAR CITY:** The first phase of the project, also known as the period of market cultivation, will begin in 2015 to 2020. The primary goal of the project was to build a commercial logistics center, an exhibition hall, and some industries using local resources like livestock and fisheries. The processing and manufacturing industries will be developed during phase 2, which was referred to as the period of expansion and development and lasts until 2025. The creation of industrial parks will proceed in stages. The Free Zone's size also increases during phase 3, which runs from 2030 to the present. The Free Zone in Balochistan will drive local economic and

industrial development and play a crucial role in CPEC's commercial and industrialization initiatives.

- **LAND ALLOCATION FOR SOUTHERN COMMERCIAL LOGISTICS:** As the initial area of the Free Zone, a commercial logistics area is being constructed nearby based on the existing gwadar port. This project will primarily focus on logistics processing, sales, and exhibitions.
- **REGION OF NORTHERN MANUFACTURING:** The development of service and household appliances, textiles, and garment processing machinery industries will all be included in this project.
- **CONSTRUCTION OF GWADAR PORT AND THE EAST-BAY EXPRESSWAY:** At present, port of Gwadar is linked through a sixteen feet wide road to Gwadar town at the west-Bay. All the vehicles carrying imports has only one available route that cause disturbance to normal traffic. Gwadar port does not have a dedicated road to fulfil the transportation requirements. Even though there are three multi-purpose berths available, the planned East-Bay expressway needs to be built in order for the port to become operational. Through the 2300-acre Gwadar Port Free Zone, this 18.981-kilometer four-lane expressway with six-lane embankments and a 30-meter railway corridor will connect the Gwadar port to the Makran coastal highway.
- **ESTABLISHMENT OF PAK-CHINA TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL INSTITUTE IN GWADAR:** The primary stakeholders of the Port City of Gwadar are the Gwadar residents. All long-term development projects depend on their involvement in the deepsea port, industrial and commercial businesses, and urbanization processes. This task is proposed to shape and improve the abilities of the dynamic populace of Gwadar to partake in the development of the port city.

- **DREDGING OF BERTHING AREAS AND CHANNELS, GWADAR PORT:** In addition to maintaining the existing port facilities, it is necessary to carry out expansion work all the way along the seashore of Gwadar East Bay in order to construct additional terminals and port infrastructure. China would provide a concessional loan of Rs 2.800 in accordance with the agreement that was signed in August of 2015 with the Chinese government. The Gwadar Port Authority is responsible for spending 2.800 billion on the construction of breakwaters and dredging projects. A breakwater that is between 1.200 and 1.500 kilometers long is needed to build berthing facilities on the eastern side of the existing multi-purpose terminal, which is 4.200 kilometers long.
- **ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IN GWADAR:** The brand-new Gwadar airport will be Pakistan's largest and most advanced and will be open for public in September 2024. It will be constructed on over 4,000 acres. Additionally, China is developing a road network to connect the free economic zone to the seaport and new airport.
- **WESTERN ROUTE:** The western route, also known as (M-8), is the primary CPEC route through Balochistan. It's the quickest way to get to Kashghar. It would start in Gwadar and travel through Turbat, Panjgur, Nag, Basima, Sorab, Qalat, Quetta, Qilla Saifullah, and Zhob in Balochistan before reaching Dera Ismail Khan in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and Hassan Abdal before reaching Islamabad. Out of the 870 kilometers of road network in Balochistan, nearly 556 kilometers have already been completed. The remaining work should be finished by December 2016.¹⁰⁰

¹⁰⁰ Neoliberal Thoughts,” *International Journal of Business and Social Science* 6, no. 2 (February 2015): 290-297.

CHAPTER 3

CPEC AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF BALOCHISTAN: INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL CHALLENGES

In terms of geography, Balochistan is the largest province of Pakistan. Although the province is least populated and plethora of mineral resources, yet it is the most deprived region of the country. Malfunctioned political structures, exclusive governmental policies, extractive state institutions, and negligent local and national leadership are some of the key factors lying behind the under-developed Balochistan.¹⁰¹ In 2016, United Nations Development Programmed (UNDP) reported that seventy-one percent of people in Balochistan live below the poverty line, and in comparison to other provinces of Pakistan, Balochistan is the least urbanized province.¹⁰² The lack of progress in the province is not because of the dearth of resources but because of the negligence of national and local leaders. It is rich in natural resources as it contributes 40% of the energy requirement of the country in the form of natural gas, coal and electricity.¹⁰³ According to Rotberg, “absence of state machinery is the incompetence of a government to exercise its power and bring socio-economic stability.”¹⁰⁴ Robust state infrastructure is compulsory to establish national and provincial institutions that meet the interests of the state. State machinery is an escalating force to develop social solidarity among the people of various regions within a country. Unfortunately, due to absence of robust state infrastructure in the Balochistan province, social and political landscape of Balochistan is continuously abating since decades because of

¹⁰¹ Murad Ali, “China–Pakistan Economic Corridor: prospects and challenges,” *Contemporary South Asia* 28, no.1 (September 2019): 100-112, <https://doi.org/10.1080/09584935.2019.1667302>

¹⁰² Ibid

¹⁰³ Human Development Report: 2016, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), <https://www.undp.org/publications/human-development-report-2016>

¹⁰⁴ Ibid

the poor policy making in state level as well as poor administration caused absence of state machinery.

Balochistan is confronted with multi-dimensional internal and external challenges, and it is assumed that CPEC is a game changer that would help the province to resuscitate its fortune. CPEC is labeled as a 'national project' that would benefit all the provinces of Pakistan, and Balochistan in particular as it is aimed to connect Pakistan with the world through Gwadar port. The Gwadar Port at mouth of Persian Gulf provided shortest route to Africa, Oil-rich Middle East and the western hemisphere. So CPEC can be considered a game changer as it can potentially bring prosperity to the province. Therefore, it is necessary to ensure socio-economic development and peace and stability in the province to reap the maximum benefit of the CPEC for the entire country. Through CPEC, Pakistani government has comprehended the necessity of addressing the apprehensions of the natives of Balochistan. It is justified to argue that the upcoming social and economic opportunities and the political consideration, CPEC has fetched for Balochistan, would possibly bring social stability and perpetual peace in the province.

According to Provincial Home Departments Report in 2015, there is a fifty percent reduction in terrorist attacks and target killings in the province that apparently reflects that CPEC has improved the security issues of the Balochistan.¹⁰⁵ However, Balochistan is a troubled heart for CPEC because of its challenging environment and compromised development. As the local communities are well aware of their deprived condition and according to them the incumbent of their plight is the federal government so they don't allow the government for such a mega project on their land and this thing is exploited by internal as well as external factors which are a

¹⁰⁵ Human Development Report: 2016, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), <https://www.undp.org/publications/human-development-report-2016>

potential challenge for the implementation of the project's policy. This is the reason Balochistan is touted as a troubled heart for CPEC. Moreover, the local's preferences are being ignored by this project such as they have no access to fishing in their water, and too many security forces in the daily city affairs for protecting Chinese employees from targeted killings due to which resentment of people regarding CPEC escalated. There are some internal as well as external factors which exploit these troublesome conditions. This chapter will underscore those social, economic and political issues that are creating hindrance in the success of CPEC in Balochistan. It will also discuss the counter measures taken by Pakistani government to release the tensions of Balochistan.

3.1 INTERNAL FACTORS

There are plenty of internal factors that make Balochistan a challenging environment for CPEC. One of the main factors is the Baloch insurgency which creates instability in the province and is a hindrance to the development of CPEC. Pakistan's government has taken steps to stabilize the province and to stop insurgencies despite the measurements that insurgency in the province intensified. Insurgent's slayed 14 bus passengers in April 2019, in Ormara.¹⁰⁶ In May 2019, insurgents attacked Pearl Continental in Gwadar.¹⁰⁷ This is a gesture that Baloch insurgents can implant influence on the CPEC project. Any brutal attack at Gwadar can freeze the entire project. Besides insurgency, there are also other internal factors such as political system, economic factors and social factors which have the potential to deter the entire mega project. How these factors impact CPEC development are explained below.

¹⁰⁶ "14 bus passengers martyred in Ormara terror attack," *The Nation*, May 19, 2019. <https://www.nation.com.pk/19-Apr-2019/14-bus-passengers-martyred-in-ormara-terror-attack>.

¹⁰⁷ "Gwadar hotel building badly damaged in terrorist attack," *Dawn*, May 13, 2019. <https://www.dawn.com/news/1481988>

3.1.1 FEAR OF ETHNOCENTRISM

Due to the amplified challenges posed by migrations around the globe, the idea of ethnocentrism took an imperative position in sociological imagination. At present, ethnocentrism has become an important area of study for socio-political scholarship because major regions of the world such as Europe, Africa and North America are facing refugee crisis. Displacements of immigrants are based on various factors including economic factors, conflicts, climate change and natural disasters.¹⁰⁸ United Nations Organization (UNO) describes ethnocentrism as “attitudes, prejudices and behavior that reject, exclude and often vilify persons, based on the perception that they are outsiders or foreigners to the community, society or national identity.”¹⁰⁹ ethnocentrism is centered on exclusive mindset, intolerance and prejudice, fear of strangers, and in most of the circumstances, ethnocentrism among native people who consider themselves better and superior than the foreigners.¹¹⁰ Ethnocentrism is usually expressed through subtle attitudes, for example, dehumanizing statements, left hand compliments and negative stereotypes. In actions, ethnocentrism reflects through violence, annoyance and harassment, policies based on discrimination, and barring social rights and services.

3.1.2 ETHNO-NATIONALISM AND SENSE OF MARGINALIZATION

Baloch culture and civilization is unique from rest of the Pakistan. Balochistan is a tribal society based on old traditions and cultures. As mentioned previously, Balochistan has been neglected by the national and political leadership for decades due to which this region is underdeveloped and traditional. Every Baloch tribe or community has its exclusive mindset and

¹⁰⁸ Oksana Yakushko, “Xenophobia: Understanding the Roots and Consequences of Negative Attitudes Toward Immigrants,” *The Counseling Psychologist* 37, no 1 (Spring 2008): 36-66, <https://doi.org/10.1177/0011000008316034>

¹⁰⁹ Christina Steenkamp, “Xenophobia in South Africa: What Does it Say about Trust?,” *The Commonwealth Journal of International Affairs* 98, no.1 (July 2009):439-447, <https://doi.org/10.1080/00358530903017949>

¹¹⁰ Ibid.

lifestyle that it follows rigidly. They never compromise on the cultural values and perceptions that are inherited from their forefathers. Any disturbance or addition in their existing social order invokes the spirit of protecting cultural values and dignity in Baloch population.¹¹¹ Moreover, tribal sardars have been struggling for the autonomous Balochistan to ensure the longevity of feudal culture through which they can exploit the local population, and get maximum benefit of mineral reserves present in Balochistan. Due to this obvious reason, Baloch tribal men have run the five phases of separatist movements in Balochistan since the emergence of Pakistan.¹¹² These movements had run under the leadership of famous Baloch personalities such as a khan of Kalat and Nawab Akbar Khan Bugti.¹¹³ They want political autonomy and independence on the province's natural resources. Findings of a recent survey reflect that Baloch people have strong whiff of xenophobia against Chinese.¹¹⁴ People of Balochistan have prejudice against central government and they consider themselves as the most deprived communities of the country. They perceive that since the creation of Pakistan, national leadership is exploiting the natural reserves of Balochistan, and population of the province is not getting its due share. The establishment of CPEC has aggravated Baloch prejudices and grievances. Local population believes that CPEC will attract the heavy influx of economic immigrants and will disturb the local demography.¹¹⁵ Balochs are feared that they would become minority in their motherland. People of Balochistan have grievances against the national leadership and now they consider

¹¹¹ Human Development Report: 2016, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP),

<https://www.undp.org/publications/human-development-report-2016>

¹¹² Ibid

¹¹³ Imran Mukhtar January 05, TTP, BLA, BLF & IS-K major actors of violence in 2021

¹¹⁴ Umer Zaman, Shahid Nawaz, Mahwish Anjam, Rana Salman Anwar and Muhammad Shahid Siddique, "Human resource diversity management (HRDM) practices as a coping mechanism for xenophobia at transnational workplace: A case of a multi-billion-dollar economic corridor", Cogent Business & Management 8,no.1 (February 2021), <https://doi.org/10.1080/23311975.2021.1883828>

¹¹⁵ Ibid.

China as ‘partner in crime,’ consequently Baloch terrorist wings have started target killing of Chinese.¹¹⁶

3.1.3 ECONOMIC MARGINALIZATION AND LOCAL PREJUDICES AGAINST CPEC

The economic condition of Balochistan is another challenge for CPEC. The province full of natural resources always fails in fighting against poverty, illiteracy and unemployment with every passing day. The economic indicators in Balochistan are also very weak. The investment rate in Balochistan is too low. Balochistan has the most important geo-strategic location in the region. It is located at the cultural, geographical and socio-economic crossroads of the Middle East. These abeyant could make the province an industrial hub. Despite an abundance of natural and precious resources Balochistan always remain backward economically due to incompetent leadership. This province contains a huge amount of gold but still, the plight of economy in the province is permanent.¹¹⁷

The sources of income for local communities are limited. Limited farming in the east and fishing along the Arabian Sea coastline are the main sources of income for local people. The people even don’t have clean water to drink, it reflects the grief economic condition of the province and gave sense to the people that their resources are being utilized by other provinces and they remained destitute of their resources.¹¹⁸ While agreeing with CPEC, the government guaranteed to improve the economic conditions of the province but after the implementation of the project, all the statements in favor of Balochistan seemed to be only words which have

¹¹⁶ Imran Mukhtar January 05, TTP, BLA, BLF & IS-K major actors of violence in 2021

¹¹⁷ Ibid.

¹¹⁸ Umer Zaman, Shahid Nawaz, Mahwish Anjam, Rana Salman Anwar and Muhammad Shahid Siddique, “Human resource diversity management (HRDM) practices as a coping mechanism for xenophobia at transnational workplace: A case of a multi-billion-dollar economic corridor”, *Cogent Business & Management* 8,no.1 (February 2021), <https://doi.org/10.1080/23311975.2021.1883828>

nothing to do with actions. Due to CPEC, the fog of fears grows thicker, According to the local community Baloch CPEC is the economic project for Pakistan and this project has nothing to do with Balochistan CPEC is a bad deal for Balochistan and due to this deal, the condition of Balochistan will be worsened. Due to CPEC, local access to sea for fishing has been declined.¹¹⁹ The Baloch nationalists have deep apprehension that mega projects like CPEC will become the cause of losing access to the natural resources of their people. History is evidence of the fact that colonial powers have always used the places of FATA, KPK and Balochistan only for defence.¹²⁰ According to Chinese's the policy of mercantilism and subsequently gain maximum economic gain CPEC is giving economic stagnation to the locals of Balochistan by snatching their only source of income which is fishing and farming. Now due to the construction of the port, the people of Gwadar are allowed to do fishing just as far as 20 kilometers.¹²¹

Baloch separatists have shifted more of their attention towards China after Beijing started making significant investments in Balochistan because they believe that Beijing is collaborating with Islamabad to steal their resources and militarize their areas. The 'development' projects in Balochistan are allegedly based on a well-known pattern of exclusion, theft, and uneven income distribution, which they think siphons off valuable resources. The Saindak Project, Pakistan's largest operating copper and gold mine, is an example.¹²² Since 2001, the Chinese company Metallurgical Corporation of China (MCC) has been running the lucrative Saindak mines without any control or responsibility from Pakistani side.¹²³ The Senate functional committee received a working document that states that between 2003 and 2013, copper from Saindak was

¹¹⁹ International Relations, New York: St. Martin's Press. Genest, Marc A. Conflict and Cooperation: Evolving Theories of International Relations (Belmont, CA: 1996).49.

¹²⁰ Ibid

¹²¹ Ali, Akber. "China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC): Prospects and challenges for regional

¹²² Imran Mukhtar January 05, TTP, BLA, BLF & IS-K major actors of violence in 2021

¹²³ Paul Titus and Nina Swidler, "Knights, not Pawns: Ethno-Nationalism and Regional Dynamics in Post-Colonial Balochistan,"

sold for roughly \$1.6 billion. Balochistan only made \$9 million, with the majority going to Pakistan and China.¹²⁴ Since the mines started working in 2002, it is uncertain how much silver, gold, and copper have been taken; the Saindak project has been compared to a daylight heist.¹²⁵ Besides the uneven revenue distribution, even incidental benefits like the neighborhood's renovation and career chances have escaped. According to two professors, "the Chinese are highly self-sufficient and have not engaged local labour in these efforts, following their well-honed management approach to such mega-projects."¹²⁶

3.1.4 GWADAR PORT AND BALOCH APPREHENSIONS

Of all businesses, Gwadar Port has the most effect on Baloch nationalism.¹²⁷ The port, which is envisioned as the next utopia comparable to Dubai and Shenzhen, narrates the horrific story of the isolation, expropriation, and eviction of the local community. China Overseas Port Holding Company-Pakistan (COPHC) received the leasing rights to the port in 2013 when PSA decided to exit the project after failing to meet its investment obligations. The agreement will provide COPHC 91% of the profits for the next 40 years, Islamabad 9%, and Balochistan nothing. The port was moreover constructed on a fantastic fishing region in the East Bay, where the majority of locals depend on the fishing industry for a living. Access to the water was also restricted due to security considerations that forced their continual displacement.¹²⁸ As CPEC pushes Gwadar port back into the public glare, fishermen are being displaced more swiftly, and the federal government is grabbing more land to make room for construction.¹²⁹ Land grabbing

¹²⁴ Universal Journal of Educational Research 5(12): 2236-2240, 2017

¹²⁵ Ibid

¹²⁶ International Relations, New York: St. Martin's Press. Genest, Marc A. Conflict and Cooperation: Evolving Theories of International Relations (Belmont, CA: 1996).49.

¹²⁷ Ibid

¹²⁸ Universal Journal of Educational Research 5(12): 2236-2240, 2017

¹²⁹ Imran Mukhtar January 05, TTP, BLA, BLF & IS-K major actors of violence in 2021

in Gwadar has developed into another delicate issue as civil and military elites from other provinces took possession of land held by those who lacked ownership documentation. The military, navy, and coastguard all made excellent real estate purchases in Gwadar at cheap rates. People haven't benefited from the job opportunities brought forth by CPEC since China brings its own workers with it and because the local human resource isn't strong enough to compete with foreign labor.¹³⁰

According to certain government projections, upon completion, the port city of Gwadar is predicted to attract millions of migrants. An inflow of economically motivated non-Baloch migrants will transform Gwadar's demography. According to estimates, the population of Gwadar, which is presently approximately 90,000, is steadily growing. The city is anticipated to have over two million residents during the next 20 years, with the bulk originating from neighboring Pakistani provinces. According to reports, gated communities would only be constructed in Gwadar for Chinese professionals. By 2048, the population of China is predicted to surpass that of the locals. These claims might be true or not, but they nevertheless fuel Baloch worries about demographic change and bolster resistance to the Gwadar Port. This hatred has led to targeted attacks on Chinese labourers and personnel working on various China-funded projects in Balochistan. According to a study, there were 13 similar occurrences between 2001 and 2017 that resulted in the deaths of 60 people, the bulk of them were employees on Chinese projects but also included some Chinese nationals.¹³¹

The Pakistan's government, however, chose to respond to local unrest over exploitation, unequal resource distribution, and demographic change by stepping up security monitoring and

¹³⁰ Universal Journal of Educational Research 5(12): 2236-2240, 2017

¹³¹Human Development Report: 2016, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), <https://www.undp.org/publications/human-development-report-2016>

control. To improve the atmosphere for Chinese investors, certain additional conciliation measures were also undertaken. For instance, attempts were made to address Baloch grievances through institutional frameworks with the Aghaz-e-Huqooq-e-Balochistan package (Urdu for Beginning of Rights in Balochistan) in 2009 and the parliamentary committee established by the Musharraf government in 2004. However, these attempts were just half-hearted, and the reforms were never fully implemented. In spite of public calls for more provincial authority over Gwadar port and a halt to military cantonment building, the Musharraf government allowed the construction of three new army cantonments in some of the most sensitive areas, notably Sui, Gwadar, and Kohlu. This reflects the government's resolve to militarily control the region in order to provide stronger safety for Chinese businesspeople working there.¹³² Military solutions are chosen for resolving Balochistan's security concerns over difficult political compromises. A 15,000-person force was established in Pakistan to defend Chinese interests. The central government also wanted to build a 24-km barrier to physically divide areas of Gwadar in order to protect CPEC-related assets from extremist threats. The judgement was eventually modified in response to public outcry. It is noteworthy that Chinese authorities appear to be more cognizant of local unrest than Islamabad. They built a school and promised to provide \$500 million towards projects to create a hospital, a college, and a water supply system for the city.¹³³ Chinese observers claim that Beijing's ability to interact with locals and more effectively handle their issues would be key to the success of CPEC. Some reports claim that Beijing was in contact with Baloch militants to protect its investments there. However, as seen by later attacks on Chinese interests and labour, such efforts did not have the desired effects.

¹³² International Relations, New York: St. Martin's Press. Genest, Marc A. Conflict and Cooperation: Evolving Theories of International Relations (Belmont, CA: 1996).49.

¹³³ Universal Journal of Educational Research 5(12): 2236-2240, 2017

The attraction of independence is resonating more with the populace's rising disillusionment in the face of ubiquitous militarization and growing dissatisfaction with exclusive "development." Baloch people, who fear an approaching threat to the demographic balance, have developed a radical ethnic awareness and refer to the trend of outsider immigration as "ethnic swamping." The struggle to regain authority over the province's resources is therefore one of the central pillars of the Baloch armed resistance.

3.1.5 SECURITY APPREHENSION AND THE CPEC

The Chinese government's concerns about the security of its people in Pakistan have grown as a result of the attacks carried out, in particular, by the BLA's Majeed Brigade. As previously indicated, these internal security risks have combined with those from the outside. According to security intelligence collection, India has given these rebel factions a large amount of cross-border support. It looks that this is an effort to sabotage CPEC. Utilizing Pakistan's internal unrest furthers geostrategic, political, and aspirational goals. The unfriendly neighbors are still motivated by a desire to restrain China and harm Pakistan's economy.

The Sindhi nationalist organization SDLA has recently become a new threat to CPEC. While the commander is still in exile, it has targeted Chinese nationals in Pakistan by collaborating with the BLF and BLA. It has been operational since 2020.¹³⁴

3.1.6 THE TRIBAL SOCIETY AND BALOCH NATIONALISM: BLA

The tribal social systems of Balochistan have had a significant impact on Baloch nationalism in Pakistan. In the context of a weak Pakistani state interacting with post-cold war conditions characterized by the disappearance of the Soviet Union hegemonic force and the

¹³⁴ Imran Mukhtar January 05, TTP, BLA, BLF & IS-K major actors of violence in 2021

processes of globalization, the Baloch nationalism has been created by broad politico-tribal struggle. The attitudes, breadth, and directions of Baloch nationalism in this region have changed within this framework. The radical nationalism has mostly grown more militant, exclusive, puritanical, and racially focused. It has become increasingly complacent about pursuing its goals using immoral and dishonest tactics, such as indiscriminate slaughter, abduction, and ransom; arm trafficking; and occasionally, some nationalists, if not directly, profiting from the drug trade and banditry. It is not unusual to discover a strange scenario in Balochistan given the geopolitical circumstances in the entire South Asian region, notably in Pakistan and Afghanistan, and the presence of tribal-sardari ideals connected with inter and intra rivalry.¹³⁵

Just a few decades prior to the creation of Pakistan in 1947, the Baloch nationalism began to take shape. It was built during sardar rivalries and contests, which took place in a larger context of alliance formation and conflicts of interests amongst foreign forces. First is influenced by the Indian National Movement's anti-British Empire wars of conquest. Second, which is in the backdrop of Pakistan's wars with India and Afghanistan following its creation in 1947.¹³⁶ The Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) wants a Balochistan that is autonomous and ungoverned by Pakistan. In April 2006, Pakistan outlawed it because of its violent tactics, which included but were not limited to bomb attacks. The BLA first became visible in the late 1990s. It has two recognised offsprings. The Majeed Brigade is the most deadly of these. It was a part of the recent deadly attack in Karachi on the Confucius Institute.¹³⁷ Within the BLA, an elite faction known as the Majeed Brigade advocates pro-suicide attacks. It now poses the greatest threat to the CPEC.

¹³⁵ International Relations, New York: St. Martin's Press. Genest, Marc A. Conflict and Cooperation: Evolving Theories of International Relations (Belmont, CA: 1996).49.

¹³⁶ Paul Titus and Nina Swidler, "Knights, not Pawns: Ethno-Nationalism and Regional Dynamics in Post-Colonial Balochistan,"

¹³⁷ Ibid

The BLA has a physical strength of 2,000 to 3,000 and can undertake operations out of Afghanistan, Iran, and the hilly areas of Balochistan.¹³⁸ It was classified as a terrorist group by the US Department of State in July 2019, and only that year, it attacked roughly 19 people in Balochistan. There were increased assaults in Balochistan during the first half of 2021, notably against the security personnel. These attacks have primarily occurred in Balochistan, Southern Punjab, and Karachi.

After years of open hostilities, the Baloch Liberation Front (BLF), the Baloch Republican Guards, and the Baloch Raji Ajoi Sangar (BRAS), generally known as the Baloch People Liberation Coalition, were formed. The start of this partnership started in November 2019. The coalition intends to launch coordinated operations in Balochistan against the Pakistani military, CPEC infrastructure, and all other Chinese targets. According to Pakistan's former foreign minister, BRAS maintains training and logistics bases in the Iranian region that borders Pakistan. Operating in the southern part of Balochistan, the gang has "safe havens" at Kacha, DG Khan, and Koh Suleman. The main goals of BRAS in Balochistan are Chinese labourers and CPEC ventures. Close to the Makran shore, BRAS have also targeted security personnel who are part of the military and paramilitary. The Sindhu Desh Revolutionary Army (SDRA) and BRAS declared their operational cooperation on July 25, 2020. They progressively revealed their might throughout the ensuing years.

¹³⁸ International Relations, New York: St. Martin's Press. Genest, Marc A. Conflict and Cooperation: Evolving Theories of International Relations (Belmont, CA: 1996).49.

3.2 EXTERNAL CHALLENGES

There are many external threats to the CPEC development. The greatest challenge is encapsulated by its competitors because the project is an economic enterprise. Three great powers the U.S., India and Japan are not easy with this project. USA is considering CPEC as an early indication of the imminent end of its worldwide hegemonic role and the financial front Japan's intention that with the successful completion of CPEC, the edge that Japan had over China in financial markets all over the world would vanish because the trade distances amongst China and its trading partner countries would be decreased approximately 9000 kilometers. This Chinese project would involve more than 60 countries comprising two-thirds of the world population, three-fourths of the world's power reserves and approximately half of the world's GDP. The US see CPEC as a potential danger and it views it as a Chinese countermeasure towards its pivot to South East Asia in particular and in the whole of Asia as general two years tragedy. The recent one knows of Chinese due to CPEC also poses a big challenge for the US in blue waters and the US has accepted the Indian position on CPEC. The US has also warned Pakistan and China that CPEC would allow terrorist organizations more targets for attack. That's the reason the US is providing considerable support to Baloch separatists and terrorists and other separatists who are having their hideouts in Afghanistan under the protection of the US and India. The Chinese internal security in the region of Xinjiang and the Uyghur autonomous region is not favorable to CPEC.

The Uyghur Muslims and the Chinese are always ready to lock their hands. The joining of the East Turkestan terrorist force with the terrorist of Pakistan and Afghanistan are a security threat to CPEC. The CPEC one belt one road has made India like an old tiger that has a thorn in its paw with internal infection. India has created roadblocks in CPEC through terrorist activities.

There are also other factors which have the potential to threaten CPEC. As CPEC has created havoc in its regional and international competitors so, they are trying to undermine the project and threaten the project.

There are two categories of actors which are a challenge for CPEC. These two categories are

- Regional Actors
- International Actors

3.2.1 AFGHANISTAN

Afghanistan is likely to have somehow effects on CPEC. Pakistan is not purely immune from the fallout of the civil war in Afghanistan. Tensions in the Pak-Afghan border dispute have the potential to severely affect the implementation of CPEC. Besides the involvement of America and India supporting Afghanistan for threatening the CPEC, another actor has arisen in Afghanistan namely Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISKP). The presence of this actor is not only a challenge for the Taliban and its allied forces but also a threat to its neighboring countries. The state become operational in Afghanistan in 2015 and conducted around 100 lethal incidents against the general population and also 250 armed clashes with security forces. For Pakistan, this harsh situation is even greater, according to Zalmay Khalilzad "Pakistan's security and stability were always tied to the situation in Afghanistan, whether it's the aftermath of the Soviet invasion or the US war on terror".¹³⁹ SO any instability in Afghanistan will cause instability in Pakistan which is a serious threat to CPEC. And Afghanistan's operational groups like ISKP also help Baloch separatist groups. The operational group was responsible for the killing and kidnapping of Chinese workers in Balochistan. The motive behind their violent operations on CPEC is to

¹³⁹ Fahad Zulfikar Published July 1, 2020. <https://www.brecorder.com/news/40002198>

protect Uyghur Muslims in Xinjiang and second is the grand nature of the project by this they can get huge media coverage and will get a fearful image for their opponents. Besides security threats, Pakistan's arrangements are not enough to extend CPEC in Afghanistan as the country has the poorest infrastructure and the least capacity to absorb investment.

3.2.2 IRAN

CPEC has also a route from Pakistan to Iran and Pakistan is also sharing its border with Iran. So, any situation of chaos impacts Pakistan which has a direct linkage with CPEC. The relationship between Pakistan and Iran is always in the situation of Ups and Downs. Though both states work together for stability in Afghanistan and also support the Taliban still both states have too complicated relations. Currently, Iran had witnessed the third Cultural Revolution. Most likely this issue of Iran will solve diplomatically but in case it is not solved diplomatically then it was became a challenge for the implementation of the CPEC. Escalated conflicts between Iran US and Arab countries had also deteriorated relations of Iran with Pakistan.¹⁴⁰

Iran has a sense of several threats to its state because of CPEC. First of all, due to the active Gwadar port, the activity of the Chabahar port of Iran, this is a threat to its economy. There are also chances of increased unemployment in Iran due to CPEC because of the change of maritime route. With the arrival of Chinese companies, local industries will be closed. Iran has also a threat of political uncertainty in the state because of the emergence of a communist party in Iran by CPEC. The US is frustrated by the sense of the emergence of the opponent ideology in the region and tried to create civil war in the state. Another threat is the threat to the security and

¹⁴⁰ Saleem, Ali Haider. "CPEC and Balochistan: Prospects of Socio-Political Stability." *Strategic Studies* 37, no. 4 (2017): 118–32. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/48537575>.

sovereignty of Iran because of the arrival of foreign companies in the state. These threats will make it difficult for the CPEC to be implemented because Iran will not easily allow it.

Iran is also a challenge for CPEC because of its complicated relations with Pakistan. Iran is not happy with Pakistan because of its good Relations with Saudi Arabia. There are sectarian issues between both states which makes Balochistan an unsafe place for CPEC. Iran is against Shias violence in Pakistan as Sunnis are backed by Saudi Arabia and the Shia community is backed by Iran creating a scenario of civil war in the state of Pakistan which increases the political uncertainty in Pakistan which is a threat to CPEC. Hazara Community Incident is evidence of the sectarian issue between both states. Iran has good relations with India which has ties with Pakistan so India can also instigate Iran against Pakistan. The diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Iran deteriorated because Iran tilted towards India as India has several investments in the Chabahar Port of Iran. So for the implementation of CPEC, good relations between Pakistan and Iran are necessary. In this way, Iran can be a big challenge for CPEC.¹⁴¹

3.2.3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

After the end of World War II American policy towards South Asia changed several times but the ultimate goal of America to become a hegemon remained the same. China is a threat to American hegemony as it is expanding its economy all over the world. CPEC I tool to boost its economy and America considers it as a counter tool. According to America CPEC is the technique of China to contain America so it will not allow this mega project to be implemented. America has also warned Pakistan regarding CPEC but it is unable to gain victory in the method

¹⁴¹ Shahrukh, Naufil, Shahzad Hussain, Tuba Azeem, and Samand Khan. "Coastal Communities of Balochistan Vis-à-Vis CPEC: Mapping Perceptions and Socioeconomic Issues." *Policy Perspectives* 17, no. 1 (2020): 53–72. <https://doi.org/10.13169/polipers.17.1.0053>.

as the honeymoon period between Pakistan and China is permanent. However, America influences the entire Asia so it can pose several threats to CPEC.¹⁴²

America's alliances with India are also posing a threat to CPEC because of its strategic location of India. America and India are also posing a negative image of the Chinese economic project through print media calling this project a debt trap. This negative image development programme discourages foreign investors from huge investments in the project. America also backed the separatist group in Balochistan to destabilize the land and pose a vehement threat to CPEC. So, American influencing power is a major threat to the implementation of the CPEC.

US counterterror operations are pushing militants into Balochistan which is the heart of CPEC. Pakistan is always an ideal ground for proxy wars and America will utilize this factor of Pakistan to contain China. "The support of American CIA, Indian RAW and Israeli Mossad have continuously supported the militant groups in Pakistan. And sub-fanaticism in all the provinces to conduct subversive acts and use terrorist elements in the whole country to threaten Pak-Chinese plans of developing the CPEC. But Pakistan has the potential to mitigate the threats but still, American influencing power cannot be ignored".

3.2.4 INDIA

The corridor is associated with two historical hostiles of India. Chinese new brand of economy has its nerve point in the disputed territory of Pakistan and India. This is a violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of India. The existence of Chinese militants near the western Indian border in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir is a threat to India. India will try to stop the implementation of this mega project. India also fears that the implementation of such a project will prospects the economy of Pakistan and this boosted economy will make Pakistan stronger. A

¹⁴² Chad G. Marzen, Balochistan, Self-Determination, and U.S. Foreign Policy, 45 N.C. J. INT'L L. 195 (2020).

strong Pakistan is a giant threat to India. There have been a lot of attacks on this project and these attacks have evident that India supported them through Pakistan's separatist group. India has a proper plan to blockade the implementation of CPEC. RAW has established a special office in Delhi to mismanage the project. The office is allotted 300 million dollars. Already there is a sudden uprising of terror in the region one can be evident that in Pakistan some political parties and separatist groups have a serious hatred for the CPEC.¹⁴³ India has also got involvement in Chabahar port to counter the project. India is also backed by the United States of America to create hurdles in the venture. Kulbhushan Jadhav is evident in these tactics.¹⁴⁴

The neighbor of Pakistan shows sympathy with Baloch but they just used them for their interest. The nature of the conflict is rooted in the emergence of Pakistan and Iran's sectarian issues with Pakistan. They supported and funded Baloch and promote the insurgencies and militant groups. They have propaganda against Pakistan on the base of their rights and natural resources. In CPEC, the propaganda that Pakistan gives Balochistan to China and China will rule as the British ruled. They utilize their resources and you will be a slave. Kulbhushan Jadhav is proof that India's propaganda through Iran and Afghanistan. On the other hand, the state couldn't respond and did not talk with the Baloch people and their demands, thousands of missing persons, terrorism, insurgencies, and no policy to improve the necessities and also not engaged in politics. Due to Afghan refugees in Balochistan, Baloch will become a minority in its province and the government couldn't take action.

¹⁴³ Dr Maryam Azam, "Pakistan – India Security Paradox: Between Deterrence and Coercive Diplomacy," *Journal of Security & Strategic Analyses* 7, no. 1 (2021): 160–80.

¹⁴⁴ Azam, "Pakistan – India Security Paradox."

CHAPTER 4

CPEC AND THE PROSPECTS OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF BALOCHISTAN: THE WAY FORWARD

CPEC has a lot of potential to harness development in Balochistan. Balochistan is having the largest geography and smallest population and low level of socio-economic development despite having a plethora of mineral resources. The despondency of the province escalates with having the lowest presence in high level employment and nominal political representation in Pakistan's politics. The province has always faced an unstable environment because of the insurgency of its deprived population since the inception of Pakistan. Exclusive policies, cracked political structure, extractive institutions and autocratic leadership are deterrence to the development of the province. United Nations Development Programmed (UNDP) in 2016 reported that 71% of people in Balochistan live in multidimensional poverty and this figure is at a lower rate in other provinces this province is the least urbanized as compared to other provinces of the country. This province also faced other social development indicators such as sanitation and drinking safe water, and primary education enrollment rate. This lack of progress in the province is not because of the dearth of resources but because of the negligence of national and local leaders. It is rich in natural resources as it contributes 40% of the energy requirement of the country in the form of natural gas, coal and electricity.¹⁴⁵

In this deprived situation of Balochistan, China-Pakistan economic corridor is a hope for the development of province as a source of new avenues of opportunities for Balochistan because

¹⁴⁵ Mustafa D, Qazi UM (2007) Transition from Karez to Tubewell irrigation: Development, modernization, and social capital in Balochistan, Pakistan. *World Development* 35 (10), 1796-1813.

of its geographical location and Gwadar has a pivotal position in this mega project. The Gwadar Port at mouth of Persian Gulf provided shortest route to Africa, Oil-rich Middle East and the western hemisphere. So CPEC can be considered a game changer as it can potentially bring prosperity to the province. According to Provincial Home Departments Report in 2015 there is a 50% reduction in terrorist attacks and target killings in the province which means CPEC has improved the security issues of the Balochistan. Since its start, CPEC has grown to become one of Pakistan's most important economic drivers.¹⁴⁶ The Belt and Road effort (BRI)'s main effort, CPEC, aims to foster political stability, economic prosperity, and human development. These initiatives, however, are dependent on the provincial and federal governments giving Pakistan and Balochistan more serious and focused attention. As a result, it is critical that government officials take the required steps to correct any defects in project management and ensure timely completion.

The main pillars of CPEC are improved regional connectivity, geopolitical collaboration, geo economic linkages, intercultural exchange, and shared economic success, to name a few. The corridor is a comprehensive development strategy that places a strong focus on increasing energy supply by harnessing both Pakistan's coal resources and renewable energy sources like wind and solar energy. Second, a variety of infrastructure connectivity projects are now being built, including those for data communication channels, motorways, airports, and railways. There are also several Special Economic Zones (SEZs). These SEZs are meant to create geographical locations that provide exceptional administrative and bureaucratic convenience to potential investors. The corridor also prioritizes agricultural development and the development of a sustainable human resource pipeline for local initiatives.

¹⁴⁶ M, Kirschbaum A (2010) Impact of education, income and chronic disease risk factors on mortality of adults

By tackling those persistent issues that Pakistan's previous governments have consistently disregarded, CPEC seeks to fundamentally alter the country's economic landscape. China pledges to address the issue of linking infrastructure, energy, human resources, agriculture, and strong industrial growth in order to bring about sustained success in Pakistan, subject to the commitment being fully adopted by Pakistan's federal and provincial authorities.¹⁴⁷

The multibillion-dollar investment made by CPEC has the potential to significantly alter the province's socio-political and socio-economic environment. The expansion of the working class's skill set, the development of employment, the linking of rural areas to the national highway system, an increase in economic activity, and the interdependence of many economic sectors are only a few examples of these. The broader CPEC goal also include mining operations, increased agricultural output, financial incentives for private investment, and the exploitation of natural resources for energy generation.

Following the immediate benefits of CPEC, Balochistan is expected to see a variety of downstream consequences. For example, both levels of government have recently prioritized the province's social and economic growth. Improved public access to education is also expected to help Balochistani youth integrate. The growth of SEZs and greater attention on Gwadar are two other prime corollaries of the CPEC investment.

¹⁴⁷ Brigadier Waseem Ishaque, "China-Pakistan Economic Corridor",134.

4.1 IMPROVING EDUCATIONAL ACCESS THROUGH SKILLED LABOUR

As previously stated in the study, Balochistan's educational system falls well short of the quality necessary for effective economic outcomes. The corridor's educational activities help the country and aid in economic growth in three ways.

The first step is to develop federal and provincial educational policies that complement and collaborate with China's vision for Pakistan. One of CPEC's objectives is the construction of a fiber optic network. Huawei, a major Chinese technology corporation, managed the project's procurement. This initiative can serve as a model for the implementation of e-learning throughout Pakistan, providing educational possibilities to persons who cannot physically access learning facilities or who are unable to attend courses because no institution of this kind exist. The federal and provincial governments create collaborative education policies that recognize, support, and accredit e-learning organizations in order to fully grasp the potential of this e-learning opportunity.¹⁴⁸

Secondly, with providing an opportunity for economic and infrastructure development, CPEC also serves as a conduit for cross-cultural and educational exchange. Scholarships related to various levels of administrative and research hierarchy is falling under the ambit of the corridor are being offered by the Chinese Ministry of Education (MOE). These scholarships are available for PhD, master's, and research programmers at China's leading league institutions. The considerable gap between Pakistani academics and public policy may be bridged with the aid of these scholarships. In terms of executive and policy planning, these scholarships would give

¹⁴⁸ Coen ES, Ross AN, Turner S (2008) Without tiendas it's a dead neighbourhood: The socioeconomic importance of small trade stores in Cochabamba, Bolivia. *Cities* 25, 327–339.

intermediate and upper-level executives and researchers with the fundamental abilities needed to carry out the CPEC projects.

Third, In addition to these categories, China provides scholarships for Pakistani youngsters to pursue vocational education. This field of study offers diplomas in industrial, electromechanical, and information technology. It's worth noting that they serve as the foundation for integrated, industry-driven economies all over the world.¹⁴⁹

Another untapped learning resource that hasn't received much attention is the study of Chinese. CPEC facilitates cross-cultural communication in addition to other things. A sizable number of human resources will be required to enable professional communication given the influx of Chinese immigrants into Pakistan and the innate language barrier between the two cultures. To bridge this gap, a number of Pak-China study institutions are established around the country. The University of Balochistan recently built a Chinese Study Centre to encourage and support local youth for learning Chinese as a mean of economic cross-cultural labour growth and In addition, Mr. Mamnoon Hussain, the then-President of Pakistan, gave the National University of Modern Languages (NUML) a grant of PKR 1.5 million for its Gwadar campus in 2016. The construction of NUML's Gwadar campus was largely done to facilitate locals' with Chinese language instruction.

4.1.1 CPEC AND THE VOCATIONAL LEARNING

The primary streams of vocational education are one way that CPEC will drastically alter Pakistan's educational landscape. Vocational education and training play a vital role in the expansion and accessibility of skilled labour for various small, medium, and large-scale

¹⁴⁹ Muhammad, Noor & Ahmed, Aziz & Wadood, Abdul. (2020). Balochistan: An overview of its Geo-economic and Socio-economic perspective. *Review of Applied Management and Social Sciences*. 3. 12. 10.47067/ramss.v3i2.58.

businesses. In fact, one of the elements influencing China's huge economic growth was the utilization of vocational and skills training to empower its workforce. This is yet another element that has anything to do with China's exceptional amounts of FDI.¹⁵⁰

4.1.2 EMPOWERING LOCAL LEVEL APPROACH

China's extraordinary industrial capability is a key factor in its success in attracting FDI. And China's impressive economic strength is largely the outcome of its carefully thought-out approach to vocational education. In China, professionals such as physicians, engineers, and administrators have the same social standing and perks as skilled workers. Through CPEC, the advantages of vocational and skills training will be replicated in Balochistan, where they have already proven to be beneficial. The Pak-China Technical and Vocational Institute (PCTVI) is being established in Gwadar as a result of CPEC. With a total contribution from the Chinese government of USD 10 million, the PCTVI has the potential to transform the lives of young people in Gwadar (and Balochistan).¹⁵¹ This plan aims to aid young Baloch people from all throughout the province in their integration into the national economy. The plan will also make the Gwadar Port City project a locally owned and operated project by adapting successful Chinese skills training workshops and course designs into Pakistani skills training courses.

Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in Pakistan need to complete the enormous task of delivering vocational training. The 15 TVET institutions in Balochistan have trained 1,220 people in total for a range of CPEC-related projects.¹⁵² Even if there aren't many, in Balochistan, a thoroughly thought-out vocational education approach may be the

¹⁵⁰ Ibid.

¹⁵¹ Mu Xuequan, ed., "China Bucks Global Trend with Record FDI Inflows in 2018: UN Report," *Xinhua News*, June 13, 2019, http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-06/13/c_138138291.htm.

¹⁵² "Pak-China Technical and Vocational Institute at Gwadar," China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Official Website (Ministry of Planning Development and Special Initiatives), accessed February 2023, <http://www.cpec.gov.pk/project-details/39>.

difference between the population's economic prosperity and poverty. Since the 18th Amendment, the majority of population-related concerns are currently in the jurisdiction of provincial governments. In order to generate the required personnel for CPEC projects and in place of the 18th Amendment, the central government aims to work with the province governments to establish 400 vocational training centres around the country on the basis of a system of shared incurred expenditures.¹⁵³ In this situation, the federal government is unable to undertake any such programmes unless vocational training is prioritised at the provincial level. The Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (TEVTA) of the province unilaterally inked a deal with Tianjing University of Technology and Education in China as an example of how Punjab aggressively addressed the demand for vocational training in 2017. If Balochistan wants to effectively mainstream its youth, it must also actively assess the situation and look for independent opportunities for the rehabilitation of dilapidated vocational training institutions and the development of new ones.¹⁵⁴

It is critical to remember that CPEC cannot fix the problem of Balochistan's uneducated and economically disadvantaged young on its own. If the provincial government aspires to change the way the economy operates, all levels of government must pay closer attention. Combining educational interchange, skill and occupational training, and exposing young people to technology may assist in laying the basis for economic growth.

¹⁵³ "Pak-China Technical and Vocational Institute at Gwadar," China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Official Website (Ministry of Planning Development and Special Initiatives), accessed February 2023, <http://www.cpec.gov.pk/project-details/39>.

¹⁵⁴ Aziz Ahmed, 2019. "Impacts of Vocational Training for Socio-economic Development of Afghan Refugees in Labor Markets of Host Societies in Balochistan," *Journal of International Migration and Integration*, Springer, vol. 20(3), pages 751-768, August.

4.2 EMPLOYMENT GENERATION IN VARIOUS SECTORS

The technical know-how of China will be transferred to Pakistan and Balochistan through expanded technology infrastructure transfer and skill development initiatives, as discussed in the preceding sub-chapter. Therefore, it is anticipated that Balochistan would provide a pool of trained workforce. Even with a staff, job generation is not always guaranteed. Employment emerges from economic activity that reflects the kind of talents that the population possesses. The young people of Balochistan will most likely receive training in three distinct skill sets: technical and IT know-how, industrial and infrastructural development, and electromechanical abilities. As a result, it is also extremely likely that the Balochistan projects in conjunction with them would provide employment opportunities for the locals.¹⁵⁵

4.2.1 SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES (SEZS)

One of the pillars of employment growth under the auspices of the corridor is the creation of Special Economic Zones (SEZs). In the CPEC concept, a total of nine SEZs have been envisioned. The Bostan Industrial Zone, one of these 164 SEZs, is situated in Balochistan. The federal government established a SEZ at Hub, Balochistan, to enhance the facilitation of economic activity. According to Mr. Farman Zarkoon, Chief Executive of the Balochistan Investment Board, each of these SEZs have the potential to generate somewhere in the area of 100,000 employment. With Hub being sponsored by the federal government and Bostan by CPEC, this may be used as a case study for the successful outcomes of CPEC projects when they are paired with increased government attention.

¹⁵⁵ Farole, T. (2010). *Second Best? Investment Climate and Performance in Africa's Special Economic Zones*. International Trade Department, The World Bank, Washington D.C, 2010.

The Bostan SEZ will concentrate on industrialization and value addition of regional markets and commodities in accordance with the CPEC concept. The manufacture of cooking oil, chromite, ceramics, electrical appliances, medicines, agricultural machinery, cold storage, ice, and fruit processing, for example, will be industrialised predominantly in the Bostan SEZ.¹⁵⁶

The zone also has to be bigger than 1,000 acres. The SEZ's actual site has been picked with consideration. The provincial capital is not far from where it is located. The distances between Quetta Dry Port and Quetta Airport are around 23 and 32 kilometres, respectively. The distances from Karachi and Gwadar to their respective seaports are 713 KM and 976 KM, respectively. There will be 55,500 job openings in the Bostan SEZ alone for locals. Another advantage of Pakistan's SEZ programme is the simplicity of doing business in the specific communities that make up the SEZs. As an illustration, investors in SEZs are granted a one-time exemption from customs and excise duty on the machinery needed to build the zone as well as a five-year income tax holiday beginning on the day the zone was founded. Additionally, firms in SEZs are guaranteed priority access to utilities including gas, electricity, telecommunications, security, and other forms of social protection. These factors and attractions help provide the foundation for drawing both domestic and foreign investment. According to the World Bank, China's SEZs account for over 45% of all FDI and 22% of the nation's GDP since the SEZ model has been so successful there.¹⁵⁷

Balochistan's south-west and north-west regions are the least developed. Thanks to the western direction of the CPEC highway system, the Bostan SEZ will effectively service the

¹⁵⁶ Ibid.

¹⁵⁷ Mustafa D, Qazi UM (2007) Transition from Karez to Tubewell irrigation: Development, modernization, and social capital in Balochistan, Pakistan. *World Development* 35 (10), 1796-1813.

north-west. The oppressed people of north-western Balochistan would ultimately have access to the SEZ via the Dera Ismail Khan-Zhob highway (N-50 national route). The Quetta-Zhob Railway line, which is in various stages of planning and execution, the 1328 km long Gwadar-Quetta Railway line via Taftan, Panjgur, Besima, and Surab, and the 633 km long Quetta-Taftan Railway line are just a few of the Balochistan railway development projects that will require skilled labour, ideally from the local population. Numerous highway projects, including as the Surab-Gwadar N85, the Quetta-Surab highway, and the Zhob-Quetta N-50, may also be viewed as initiatives to offer employment for the local populace.

4.2.2 CPEC AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF ENERGY SECTOR

Along with the aforementioned industries, CPEC offers significant potential for the energy sector. Two projects in this area have been given to Balochistan. The first is the Hubco Coal Power Project, which has a 1320MW (Megawatts) producing capacity. This project requires coal energy, of which Balochistan is thought to have 217 million tonnes. The second project is a coal-fired power plant in Gwadar that can generate 300MW of energy. These two projects will cost around USD 2.4 billion when completed.¹⁵⁸

Gwadar, the crown gem of Balochistan, is the lone target worth roughly USD 824 million. This only pertains to CPEC funds, which will be used for a range of projects such as dock construction, modest road construction, an airport, a water treatment facility, and master city planning. Private investment in Gwadar has increased dramatically since the launch of CPEC-related projects and the city's projection as the future economic centre. This is especially true in the real estate, storage, and construction industries.

¹⁵⁸ Massarrat Abid and Ayesha Ashfaq, "CPEC: Challenges and Opportunities for Pakistan," *Pakistan Vision*, Vol.16, No.2 (2014), pp.143-169.

The aforementioned operations strongly rely on technological know-how, industrial ability, and electromechanical competency while taking into account the transfer of certain types of skills from China to Pakistan. It is fair to assume that the project's modality complements the modality of the workforce and that a significant improvement in the job situation in Balochistan is expected.¹⁵⁹

CPEC is predicted to generate 75000 employment, only in Gwadar. The Gwadar and Hub Coal Power Plants are expected to employ 10,600 people, while an additional 100,000 jobs from the Bostan and Hub zones would bring the total to around 200,000. These figures do not account for the jobs that will be generated as a result of railway and highway building projects. If the first two are included, the total would be well over 200,000, which is a big sum for the province. If the 0.7 million potential jobs produced by CPEC-related activities are divided by population, Balochistan's share is higher than that of the other provinces.¹⁶⁰

4.3 INCREASED SPATIAL AND INTRA-SECTORIAL CONNECTIVITY

Balochistan's lack of spatial connectivity is a significant issue that undermines the country's political and economic climate. Balochistan's various distant regions are connected, but the population is not spatially integrated, which leads to a lack of economic opportunities as well as sentiments of political and social isolation. The tribal nature and geographic location of Balochistan make integration incredibly difficult. Simply attributing the lack of such

¹⁵⁹ Massarrat Abid and Ayesha Ashfaq, "CPEC: Challenges and Opportunities for Pakistan," *Pakistan Vision*, Vol.16, No.2 (2014), pp.143-169.

¹⁶⁰ *Ibid*

infrastructure to difficulties is insufficient. The state of affairs at the moment also comprises a sizable portion of the absence of focused government action.¹⁶¹

All forms of infrastructure, especially roads and railroads, have a substantial influence on a region's economy by reducing travel costs and times, boosting labour mobility, and accelerating the interchange of products and services, according to adequate data on infrastructure connections to make this claim. As was previously shown in the dissertation, Balochistan's sparsely inhabited, primarily rural, and agricultural regions are where multidimensional poverty is most prevalent. These areas make up the majority of Balochistan's north, east, and south-west. The northeastern regions that have been most severely affected include Sherani, Zhob, Kohlu, Dera Bugti, and Barkhan. The poorest areas are in the south-eastern regions of Chaghai, Kharan, Washuk, Panjgur, and Awaran. Lack of connection is one of the main causes of this. If these rural communities are connected by roads and trains, their MPI and HDI ratings are predicted to increase dramatically. For instance, study by the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) using data for the Asia-Pacific area showed that Vietnam achieved a 16% drop in the prevalence of poverty in rural districts by increasing rural access to roads by just 8%. According to figures from India, the presence of roads in rural regions increased agricultural productivity by 7%. Any improvements in agricultural techniques, seed quality, or agricultural research are not included in this rise. In addition to this, the significant streaming of rural regions increases economic activity. To summarise, just improving spatial connection has the potential to significantly advance at least five SDGs. SDG 8 advocates for inclusive economic growth, SDG 2 advocates for access to food and sustainable production, SDG 9 advocates for sustainable industrialization, SDG 10 advocates for sustainability and a

¹⁶¹ Aggarwal, A (2010): Economic impacts of SEZs: Theoretical approaches and analysis of newly notified SEZs in India

reduction in mobility inequality, and SDG 11 advocates for a sustainable relationship between rural and urban areas as well as planned urbanisation.¹⁶²

Macro-projects like CPEC do not completely take into account links to rural communities. The province government should take care of the micro-connectivity modalities while the corridor projects effectively handle macroeconomic and infrastructural improvements. This underscores the significance of CPEC projects and government initiatives being coherent.

The corridor is made up of the northern, eastern, central, and western routes. When it comes to Balochistan, the western road basically encircles the whole province, particularly the poorest parts. The N-50 motorway connects Quetta with D.I. Khan through Zhob. 388 of the road's 531 kilometres (km) are located in Balochistan. In practise, this road runs through a section of the province that has suffered from years of terrible poverty and is designed to aid in the economical and personal growth of its residents. Additionally, 790 km of the N-25 highway, which connects Chaman and Karachi, are in Balochistan. The Sorab-Kalat-Quetta section, which makes up 431 of the overall 790 km, is a portion of the western route. The most vulnerable areas of Khuzdar and its surroundings are traversed by this route. A number of highways make up the route from Gwadar to Quetta as well. Through Turbat, the M-8 highway links Gwadar and Hoshab. The N-85 highway will be constructed and stretch 449 kilometres via Basima from Hoshab to Surab. The N-85 will connect to the N-50 and proceed all the way to Quetta after joining the N-25, where it would then connect to KPK. By passing through Panjgur, Washuk, and Kharan, the N-85 will connect these communities to the rest of the province and help them

¹⁶² Rahman, Zia Ur, Asghar Khan, Wang Lifang, and Ibrar Hussain. "The geopolitics of the CPEC.

become part of civilization. The Gwader to Islamabad highway will connect to the massive 1,153 KM Western alignment of CPEC, which also travels through Quetta, Zhob, and D.I. Khan.¹⁶³

In addition to its focus on roads, the CPEC is also involved in a number of railway projects. The link to Balochistan is still dependent on two initiatives. The Quetta-Taftan railway line is one among them. This 635 KM long railway link also benefits from cross-border commercial and service exchange with Iran. At some point, this railway line will cross into Iranian territory and end at Zahidan, Iran. This railway line must be included in the Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul Train Corridor, which will connect impoverished areas like Chaghai to the world market. As part of the urgent CPEC project, which will span the whole Chaghai, the current Quetta-Taftan railway line must be restored and modernised.¹⁶⁴ The second-most important railway project in Balochistan is the construction of a new railway line connecting Gwadar with Jacobabad and Quetta through Besima. This 1,328-kilometer-long railway line project is expected to cost USD 4.5 billion in total.¹⁶⁵

4.3.1 SOCIAL INCLUSIVE APPROACH

The diverse commercial and social sector services in Balochistan are usually fragmented and dissonant. A sustainable economy is a tangled jumble of many things done well. Increased connectivity can help to synchronise many economic and social services, such as education, agriculture, healthcare, urbanisation (population densification), and trade, to name a few. Pakistan, for example, loses more than USD 1 billion each year owing to agricultural post-harvest losses. One of the primary causes of this is a lack of integrated infrastructure and storage

¹⁶³ Mallah, Hussain & Budhani, Azmat. (2007). Mega Projects in Balochistan. 10.13140/RG.2.2.19512.14085.

¹⁶⁴ Ibid.

¹⁶⁵ Reynolds, Carley, Tara Stout, and Xiaoguan Wang. "Environmental and economic.

facilities, which makes it difficult to move agricultural products to nearby markets. Industrial goods are available in the same way.

A continuous supply chain for commodities (industrial or agricultural) to markets and raw materials to manufacturing sites can significantly reduce backlogs that create postproduction losses. In addition to the obvious economic benefits, a large network of micro roadways might give access to healthcare and educational institutions. Therefore, it is realistic to expect that the presence of connecting infrastructure would give birth to a complex interdependence between various economic sectors and social services. This intricate web of relationships may also help the province's overall HDI ratings and human security to rise. There is a considerable chance that the HDI ratings of Balochistan's population will increase significantly because HDI scores are evaluated in relation to factors like life expectancy, years of education, and per capita Gross National Product (GNP).

The existing trajectory of the province's levels of healthcare, education, and per capita income can be significantly adjusted towards a better, more welfare-oriented trend with the support of these CPEC projects, even though they won't directly affect it. The politicization of the projects and the entrenched interests of the beneficiaries of public backwardness, however, are projected to emerge as significant barriers to the improvement of the Baloch people despite such an exceptionally huge scale of investment.

Overall, CPEC provides an excellent opportunity for broad connection, which might assist Balochistan's most vulnerable districts in escaping extreme poverty and transitioning into places with at least a median level of human development. The province government must construct a network of paved roads connecting disadvantaged communities to major cities that

are not connected by CPEC projects for the CPEC projects to be successful and for the people to benefit the most.¹⁶⁶

4.4 INCREASED AGRICULTURAL EFFICIENCY

The Balochistani economy is mostly driven by agriculture, which makes about 34% of the total. But in Balochistan, a sizable portion of the land is still uncultivated. In Balochistan, farmed waste covers 4261479 acres of land, according to the 2010 Agricultural Census. Additionally, 800351 acres solely receive water from rain, while 492430 acres are irrigated by sailaba (seasonal floods). The productivity of a sector that employs the great majority of the province's workforce has decreased, according to these statistics. Water shortage and a lack of irrigation infrastructure are the main causes of low agricultural productivity. Even though Pakistan is primarily responsible for these two difficulties, the federal government should be commended for its efforts to irrigate a sizable portion of Balochistan. More than half of the land now irrigated by floods and rain will be covered by the Pat Feeder Canal, part of the Kacchi Canal Project, which would irrigate 0.7 million acres of Balochistan.¹⁶⁷

Because of connection challenges, agricultural goods suffer from post-harvest losses, low productivity, outmoded marketing strategies, low export, and limited market access. Balochistan's agricultural products would have access to wider domestic markets as a result of the huge connection network built as part of the CPEC concept, as described in the preceding

¹⁶⁶ Reynolds, Carley, Tara Stout, and Xiaoguan Wang. "Environmental and economic impacts of the Belt and Road initiative on Pakistan's energy sector." (2018).

¹⁶⁷ Burke F, Huda SN, Hamza S, Azam M (2005) Disparities in agricultural productivity in Balochistan - A GIS perspective. *Pakistan Geographical Review* 60 (1), 27-34.

sub-chapter. Furthermore, with the completion of the Gwadar port, farmers in Balochistan would have greater access to the export market.¹⁶⁸

China intends to collaborate with Pakistan in the agriculture sector in the later stages of the CPEC, in addition to expanding commercial opportunities in both domestic and international markets. The numerous issues affecting Pakistan's agro-economy can be greatly helped by transferring agricultural technologies there and supporting domestic agricultural research. The topics that China and Pakistan aim to discuss together are around agricultural pre-cultivation and pre-irrigation challenges. The final point, however, is very essential for Balochistan since it is part of the western alignment of CPEC, which traverses a large portion of the continent. As previously stated, the highway and railway line that are part of CPEC's Balochistan project connect the province's most rural villages with its few metropolitan hubs. Increased agricultural production and easy access to metropolitan markets would result from the extension of agriculture in the regions around these networks. As a result, the economically disadvantaged segments of society will benefit from the economic activity that is brought about by agriculture in these places.

4.5 CPEC AND THE POTENTIAL FOR MINERAL PROCESSING IN BALOCHISTAN

As was already mentioned in previous chapters, Balochistan has a very rich profile of natural resources in a number of its locations. The potential for mining and quarrying in the province offers a revitalizing opportunity to alter the socioeconomic structure of the area. Even while it is still operating and gives the province economic benefits, the mining industry is nevertheless mostly in decline. To solve this specific issue, the federal government proposed the

¹⁶⁸ Indian Ocean: security implication for India." Australian Journal of Maritime & Ocean Affairs 13, no. 2 (2021): 122-145.

establishment of Mineral Economic Processing Zones (MEPZ) in 2017. It was recommended that the CPEC projects include the formation of these MEPZs.

Despite having huge potential, just 5.5% of Balochistan's GRP comes from mining. The underwhelming performance of the state's mining industry is a key contributor to Balochistan's low economic profile, human development, and general security. With the establishment of such zones and parks, it is believed that the condition for the Baloch people would improve. The rules mandated the zoning of industrial parks in addition to the creation of MEPZs in order to promote economic development. Bostan, Dera Murad Jamali, Uthal, Hub, Gwadar, and Khuzdar in Quetta are the locations of the parks, respectively.

4.6 INCREASES IN SOCIAL WELFARE DEVELOPMENT

According to a research published in The Pakistan Development Review by Rashida Haq and Nadia Farooq, social welfare is expected to increase greatly in all of Pakistan's areas covered by the CPEC projects. Using data from the Pakistan Social and Living Standards Measurement (PSLM) Survey, Haq and Farooq examined whether the CPEC projects had an overall good or negative impact on the social welfare of residents in the affected areas. Three sets of welfare measures are utilised to assess the impact: housing, healthcare, and education (including NER at various levels). The results of evaluating social wellbeing using these three criteria are identical to the HDI assessment. The data used in the study came from the 2015 PSLM survey. Balochistan will see the greatest increase in social welfare, notably in the regions affected by CPEC projects, many of which have HDI scores much lower than the national and provincial averages. Although significant percentage improvements in social welfare standards are expected

in Balochistan across the board, the impact on districts hosting CPEC projects is expected to be greater than the province-wide rise.¹⁶⁹

Following the completion of short-term projects, it is expected that the impact of CPEC on all Balochistan districts would boost social welfare by 6.42%, a notable achievement. CPEC's increased economic activity, job creation, and improved human resource management are all inextricably linked to higher school attendance at all levels, more healthcare access and provision, and an improvement in living conditions.

4.7 MODERNIZING GOVERNANCE MODALITIES AND POLITICAL LEGITIMACY IN BALOCHISTAN

As mentioned in the previous sub-chapter, CPEC includes employment as well as many other sectors of economic, social, and human resource development. Balochistan is essential to the CPEC's success. In actuality, it is only when Gwadar's importance is understood that the corridor assumes its full shape and meaning. CPEC becomes a genuine corridor if a strong Gwadar is built. CPEC has the ability to benefit Pakistan's citizens and the nation economically. However, a similarly effective administrative structure is likely to evolve in order for those advantages to be maintained. Two central links make up the chain. The first prerequisite is an effective bureaucracy that includes everyone. The second is a collaboration between public and private institutions.

The ways that the British Raj developed governance and administration for their own benefit are being used in much of the country today. At all levels of government in Pakistan today, the decision-making methodology and legacy of the British political elite are still evident.

¹⁶⁹ Indian Ocean: security implication for India." Australian Journal of Maritime & Ocean Affairs 13, no. 2 (2021): 122-145.

Since the British Raj was more concerned with maintaining order than with establishing a welfare state, the current governance institutions typically emulate the same administrative stubbornness that the colonial overlords did. To create a more transparent and democratic system, it is imperative that at the very least the ruling structure be altered.

Balochistan is underrepresented in the bureaucracy, which serves as the administration's steel foundation. According to the AHBP agreement, Balochistan was required to have 6% representation in all federal service cadres, regardless of whether they were gazetted or not. However, according to data from the Establishment Division, just 9521 of the 14,086 posts in the federal government designated for Balochistan were actually filled. Balochistan may stop being a topic of debate in national policy talks since there are still just a small number of officials from Balochistan in senior governmental positions. The province's subpar educational system is another factor in the lack of Baloch personnel in the federal administration. Baloch aspirants struggle more to compete with candidates from Punjab and KPK due to the subpar educational system.¹⁷⁰

As a consequence of the present administration's recent civil service changes, the number of available provincial executive jobs has increased while the number of federal cadre positions has declined. Federal workers from the Pakistan Administrative Service (PAS) and the Police Service of Pakistan (PSP) will need to serve in other provinces in order to advance in their careers. Because these two top groups eventually climb to the ranks of policymakers, a diverse

¹⁷⁰ . Reynolds, Carley, Tara Stout, and Xiaoguan Wang. "Environmental and economic impacts of the Belt and Road initiative on Pakistan's energy sector." (2018).

provincial experience in the future years can result in a more nuanced and balanced national policy.¹⁷¹

The governance conundrum may be further resolved by admitting that there is a gap between the executive and those who are under control as a result of the colonial nature of government. Balochistan has several security concerns, hence it is essential to consider a democratic solution to these difficulties. Due to the security problem in the province, more military and paramilitary soldiers have been sent out. The Baloch people find it difficult to cooperate with the military, a federal organization made up of individuals from all across the country, because of their tribal attitude. A more efficient strategy to ensure security would be to bolster the neighbourhood police force. The term "community policing" is a contemporary approach that entails bringing the police and the local community together. In order to gain the trust of the communities they serve and enlist their aid in resolving safety and security concerns, local police officers should interact closely with those communities. This is what community policing is all about.

On the advice of provincial police officers (PPOs), provincial governments should create a plan that integrates community engagement with local law enforcement agencies (LEAs) in order for this to be effective. This idea has already been advantageous to KPK. To include the political elite and local stakeholders in the province's policing activities, KPK developed a system of Dispute Resolution Committees (DRCs). Due to this, 5381 of the 7797 cases assigned to the KPK DRCs in 2018 were effectively settled. The UNO also recognises community policing as one of the best strategies for resolving disputes, promoting confidence, and

¹⁷¹ Reynolds, Carley, Tara Stout, and Xiaoguan Wang. "Environmental and economic impacts of the Belt and Road initiative on Pakistan's energy sector." (2018).

strengthening the bonds of cooperation between members of the general public and security professionals.

Administrative authority must be gradually devolved to local levels for a democracy, particularly a federation, to function. The United States, for example, has 89,476 local government entities as of the 2012 census, all of which guarantee that regional problems are addressed regionally and diminish resentment-related attitudes. To fulfil the spirit of the 18th amendment, authority should be transferred from the federal to the provincial and eventually municipal governments in Pakistan. This may promote democratic administration while providing local political parties with a stage to demonstrate their managerial prowess and accept responsibility for their activities. The local government laws established by Punjab and KPK demonstrate that the 18th amendment mandates the establishment of a local government system. It is highly challenging to start, let alone execute, public welfare and infrastructure initiatives in budget-constrained areas like Balochistan. As a result, the Public-Private Partnership (PPP or P3) model of project creation, which is more contemporary and trustworthy, must be used. In exchange for the contracting party receiving advantages after production, PPP-financed projects relieve governments of their financial burden.

By allowing corporations and individual investors to invest, this strategy also strengthens their presence in the area. Punjab has effectively used this idea in accordance with the Public Private Partnership Act of 2019. Three projects have been operationalized, two have been approved, four are in the bidding process, and 23 are still in the planning phases, according to the Punjab Public Private Partnership Cell. The Punjab Vehicle Inspection and Certification System (VICS) is one of the projects, and it covers approximately 39% of the province's facilities. This initiative tries to find vehicles that have been reported stolen, have failed to pay customs duties,

or have been the subject of criminal investigations.¹⁷² If implemented in Balochistan and based on the PPP model, initiatives like VICS can significantly reduce the region's prevalent automotive smuggling and help formalise the informal economy.

Given the mining, agricultural, and industrial possibilities of Balochistan, the PPP model may work well for the local people, as Punjab has demonstrated. It will help the provincial government lessen the burden of building and delivering infrastructure and social services, in addition to luring investors. The capacity of various governmental institutions must also be increased to support this plan. Such capacity building is necessary for effective governance, which is less likely to happen otherwise. The economic advantages of investment may be maintained, as is shown in the example of Punjab, by strengthening the involvement of companies in public projects and implementing quick governance systems. Balochistan will more likely experience economic gains before the PPP model follows.

4.8 PAVING THE WAY FOR POLITICAL COHESION

The post-colonial history of Balochistan has been marked by opposition, some of which has periodically approached anarchy. Since partition, five different waves of insurrection have been sparked by Baloch nationalism and a sense of deprivation among the Baloch people. However, the political dispute is fundamentally centred on the province's pro- and anti-centre division. Although there were certain aspects of Baloch nationalism before to the partition in 1947, the division has since become increasingly militarised. More lately, the intricacies of the ostensibly ethnic worldview have come into sharper perspective. According to one study, there is an unavoidable link between poverty and radicalisation. It is important to recognise that the use

¹⁷² Chief Minister's Policy Reform Unit, "Proposed Balochistan Development vision and Strategy," Concept Note, Government of Balochistan, Quetta, Balochistan, (2014).

of violence in politics is influenced by social and racial prejudices, as well as the extreme poverty in Balochistan.

Balochistani politics often do not result in bloodshed. There are several causes for the feeling of deprivation that occasionally explodes into violent conflict. Alok Bansal argues that the province's political discord and complaints are the result of a toxic cocktail of factors, including a lack of representation in government, economic exploitation, racial marginalisation, excessive centralization, a lack of cultural freedom, and regional considerations. Except for the issue of external stimulation, all of these issues will get increased government attention.

Government measures and the financial benefits of CPEC will successfully solve the problem of inadequate educational infrastructure. The AHBP has addressed the absence of governmental representation. Economic exploitation has been addressed by the 18th Amendment and the revised NFC Award formula, which states that half of the proceeds from locally sourced resources must go to the province exchequer. Ethnic marginalisation, a subset of the difficulties already mentioned, will be addressed through increased federal engagement, neighborhood policing initiatives, and local government measures. The 18th Amendment has also properly addressed the issue of Balochistan's lack of political autonomy and cultural freedom.¹⁷³

With the introduction of the CPEC projects, many commentators anticipate that Balochistan will have a wealthy future. Smaller provinces such as KP and Balochistan accuse the federal government of excluding them from key projects, which raises the prospect of political upheaval. Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch, an ex-chief minister of the province, has criticised the CPEC projects, claiming that the proportion of jobs in the Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) for Baloch people is lower than it should be and that priority should be given to infrastructure

¹⁷³ Pakistan." Journal of political studies 17, no. 2 (2010)

projects within Balochistan's borders. Dr. Baloch is a member of the National Party (NP), a nationalist group that promises to put the Baloch people's interests first. While it may seem that these viewpoints are dividing people and fueling resistance to the CPEC, a healthy democracy encourages consultation and consensus-based decision-making. Therefore, it is crucial to respond to such beliefs with political empathy rather than ignoring them.

There is widespread economic agreement that social disintegration and economic sluggishness are linked. Economic difficulties are at the root of political conflict. As a result, separating Balochistan's security state from its residents' financial predicament is impossible. Economic disparity tends to increase social inequality, increasing the likelihood of conflict. The economic potential of CPEC has already been demonstrated in this research endeavour. It is fair to expect that the fundamental reasons of political instability will be addressed, especially in light of the benefits, notably economic ones that CPEC may provide. Social Security, unemployment, and poverty are a few of these fundamental causes. Since these issues are expected to be handled, the political debate will probably also be settled, paving the door for political cohesion and an improvement in the security situation.¹⁷⁴

¹⁷⁴ . CORRIDOR (CPEC) ON LOCAL PEOPLE IN PAKISTAN: A RESEARCH PAPER." PalArch's Journal

THE WAY FORWARD

The section before this one describes the range of potential roadblocks to CPEC implementation. Pakistan should take specific actions to reduce or eliminate dangers to its sovereignty and integrity, particularly with reference to the execution of CPEC. The country must come up with creative, long-term solutions to its issues. CPEC has drawn international issues since it is a part of China's goal for economic expansion. Islamabad currently has to cope with problems that have persisted throughout history, such as the Balochistan problem. By eradicating Balochistan's issues, a stable and safe atmosphere might be created that would for the CPEC to keep running uninterrupted. Knowing the difficulty of a problem can help you choose the best solutions. Balochistan has yet to be stabilised by national or provincial policy since there is no cohesive strategy for the region. While debating Balochistan's regional autonomy, government elites habitually disregard the views of the great majority of the population. Even if all of Balochistan's resources are in the control of the provincial government, it's possible that they won't be able to fix the region's fundamental problems because they lack the necessary skills. Since Pakistan's inception, the struggle for Balochistan's citizens' rights has mainly ignored the ambitions and contributions of the general populace, instead focusing on the war between the province's elites. The real issues facing Balochistan are complex and have their roots in the social, political, and other legal rights of the common people. Several development initiatives have fallen short of the province's goals of peace, prosperity, and progress because they never gave the Baloch people any control. To address these issues through various techniques, policies, and practices, it is crucial to recognize the province's rising difficulties. Although CPEC is seen as a game-changer, Pakistan won't benefit from it unless it is effectively implemented and operationalized, not only by looking at empirical cost and value figures. To

implement and operationalize the CPEC, Balochistan must have security, social, and political stability.

Balochistan is the center of CPEC, and it will determine whether it succeeds or fails in the future. The development and resolution of issues in Balochistan should thus be the Federation's top priority. The instability in the province has underlying reasons, and the Capital's failed policies have left scars that have harmed the public's opinion of it. Similar to this, the administration's prior indifference has significantly harmed both the rate of literacy and the standard of education. People who reside in such an environment frequently lack awareness of both local and international events. Due to this ignorance-based environment, the local population has grown hostile and anti-state. If the state truly wants to address Balochistan's problems and explain the advantages of CPEC expansion to the region's regular residents, it must clear up any previous policy mistakes. The government has to take action to empower and directly benefit the Baloch people. By tackling the internal danger, the country would be able to defend itself against conventional threats from India or any other hostile region. Balochistan's internal issues might be resolved in a number of ways, fostering an environment favorable to the operationalization of the CPEC.

5.1 HUMAN RIGHTS APPROACH FOR RESOLUTION OF BALOCHISTAN ISSUES

"Eradicating poverty without empowering people is impossible to sustain. Without minority rights, social integration is impossible. Without women's rights, gender equality is illusory. Without workers' rights, full employment may amount to nothing more than the promise of slave labour, exploitation, and sweatshops. It is impossible to escape the logic of human rights in progress."

Part II, Chapter Number 1 of the Pakistani Constitution protects the fundamental rights of its citizens. The chapter's 20 provisions provide a variety of essential rights to the people of the country. In reality, though, neither the government nor the people have bothered to make sure that these laws are upheld or that they are aware of their rights. This level of ignorance has hampered the development of the entire country. In general, a lack of awareness of rights has an impact on the entire country, but if it has persisted among the public for a long time, its impact is greater. Balochistan has the lowest literacy rate of any province. Poverty and crime are significant challenges in the province. The tribal system in the area has incapacitated the ordinary people's capacity to reason. Their ability to survive rests on the chieftains, who lead affluent lives while the rest of the tribe starves to death. Nobody can foresee peace in the area given these conditions.

According to Mary Robinson, a former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, regional development and personal growth are inextricably intertwined. She conveys her belief in the phrase above that by putting the individual at the centre of developmental activities, many society concerns and obstacles may be handled. This might be due to the fact that there are no overtly people-centered policies in Balochistan, making any infrastructure project difficult to complete. Humans are entitled to a variety of basic rights and living conditions. The growing challenges of the provinces may be resolved and uncertainty in the province can be avoided by effectively integrating human rights into development initiatives.

Numerous scholars and writers analyse the Balochistan issue from a strategic or political perspective. But the humanitarian issues the province is currently facing are not any less serious. The Baloch group, in particular, experiences a high percentage of poverty. Baloch people lack access to basic necessities including healthcare, transportation, electricity, education, and food

sources. The manner of life there is comparable to that of African countries since inhabitants in many sections of the province live in such subpar conditions. Both flowing water and sewage services are absent in the bulk of the province. In numerous regions of the province, people live in subpar temporary housing that is evocative of the style of life in war-torn republics of Africa.

The political leaders, political groups, and academics mostly based in Balochistan emphasise and accentuate the humanitarian crisis component of Balochistan's challenges in order to pursue exclusively their own aims, such as attaining more political and economic autonomy. The true battle to solve these issues is not taking place. Conditions like these are perfect for insurrections. Similar to this, the military and other security services worry about humanitarian crises rather than coming up with a simple plan to deal with the complex humanitarian crises in the province and link the problem with Pakistan's territorial integrity. These tactics have not been able to solve the issues in any way. They are unable to view the issue from a humanitarian perspective. Both administrative entities attribute problems to a lack of political and economic independence or blame regional strife for preventing progress in each case.

The government should take humanitarian concerns seriously in order to establish a meaningful answer. The Baloch people are still oppressed and mostly uninformed of their rights since they are ruled by chieftains and tribal elders. Giving such political personalities, who already have a majority, greater power would not result in increased affluence for the local populace. Neither society nor the economy can thrive until human rights are respected. Reports concerning missing persons have remained, but they have faded as new reports have come in. The state must take all necessary actions to ensure that human rights are not violated. It is critical for preserving regional peace and building goodwill towards the Federation. According to the

human rights perspective, it is impossible to achieve the development aim without preserving people's rights.

5.2 SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH: INCLUSIVE APPROACH

Promoting social development is crucial in the battle against poverty because it empowers people by establishing institutions and communities that are more inclusive, cohesive, resilient, and accountable.

The Human progress Index (HDI), GDP per capita, and education are a few of the indicators that may be used to measure social progress. Balochistan, regrettably, has the lowest HDI, the highest rate of illiteracy, and the lowest GDP when compared to other Pakistani provinces. Individuals must have access to basic human rights in order for development to occur. However, extraordinary measures are required to solve the province's most critical issues. The CPEC provides a range of roads, railway tracks, and other development projects, such as energy facility construction. However, the government must also improve the medical and educational sectors. Otherwise, infrastructure development would be unable to contribute meaningfully to social advancement. The CPEC would provide new opportunities, but it is unclear if the country is prepared to embark on such big economic ambitions. Because millions of youngsters are no longer in school, the following generation will be illiterate as well.

Initiatives to develop infrastructure will fail if these issues are not adequately addressed. Society's lack of literacy may support some who believe that CPEC is the East India Company of the twenty-first century, rather than its expansion. Pakistan should be ready for any coercive elements since, according to a concept, there are no permanent allies or foes in international

relations and that nations just look out for their own interests. Social advancement must be seen by think tanks and national officials as a key component of the venture's success.

The Social Development Hypothesis, a sociological theory, asserts that "the process of social changes is said to be development. "The general public is better able to understand the goals when there are subjective changes made to the social system and structure rather than merely a set of projects and procedures put in place to achieve particular objectives. Over the last five centuries, this development has accelerated in both speed and power, and over the last five decades, speed has grown even faster. Its theories contend that increasing knowledge is the main driver of social change that leads to a society with better integration. People are drawn to join forces and organise in order to take advantage of better and new chances. People with a variety of abilities are brought together in the new integrated organization, creating a peaceful and skilled community. Such a civilization is capable of producing the desired outcomes and achieving success. The results of efforts made for development depend on a number of crucial factors. Societies grow when they learn how to control their resources and deal with problems that arise from them. From nomadic to post-industrial communities, all clearly defined periods of human evolution included pioneers who contributed specific customs, fresh concepts, and particular habits that led to the advancement and prosperity of society. At all stages of evolution, the novel ideas of the pioneers were first rejected; nevertheless, once others learnt about the benefits, they embraced them, and society developed. When Balochistan joined Pakistan, the federation failed to assimilate its society with that of the other provinces. The skills and talents that may have aided in the country's growth were not utilised. Residents of Baloch play a negligible role in their country's governance. Even now, Balochistan is not well represented in Islamabad.

The province has been maintained in pieces from within as a result of its mixed ethnic makeup. Balochistan's social structure is nonlinear. These divisions lead to ethnic and religious warfare. From inside, Balochistani society is also broken up. Violence results from divisions based on caste and creed, and Sardars and Nawabs profit from these social faults. By all means necessary, the province's social dysfunction must be corrected. It is imperative to address the issues pulling Balochistan apart from within. Considering how its societal structure compares to other provinces. The state government may take a wholly societal perspective. For long-term gains, a particular action should be done, such as province-wide social integration or social betterment. These plans should be based on factors like the growth of the economy, environment, and culture.

As was already said, the majority of the province's residents are thought to be living in poverty. The province has a high rate of unemployment and little employment opportunities. A number of CPEC projects will open up new employment opportunities in the province. However, it is crucial to guarantee that candidates are selected on the basis of merit and that individuals who are qualified but unemployed may take advantage of these opportunities. In view of the province's severe governance issues, ensuring merit-based selection will be a key concern and imperative step.

The selection of suitable candidates may help to change the public perception of those who revolted against the government. This will both increase poverty and integrate society. The province's ecology, as a component of development, should be the second element addressed. Despite the fact that climate change is affecting the entire globe, certain efforts have been taken to ensure survival. Water has traditionally been scarce in Balochistan. The administration should supervise the development of the Kachhi canal, which might be vital in reducing water scarcity.

It would supply water to several locations in Balochistan. CPEC, on the other hand, promotes investment in energy projects that can satisfy the province's energy requirements. As a result, it can be a helpful indicator for areas that rely on tube wells; areas experiencing energy shortages will have adequate power to run tube wells. Another ecological concern is that a severe series of floods has destroyed Balochistan. Unfortunately, the government has not taken necessary precautions to protect citizens from such threats. The government must handle these issues as well. The third component is culture. In order to integrate the society within the province and with the people of other provinces, development strategies should take into account the third and most important factor, culture. It has the potential to positively alter public attitudes in the province and strengthen interprovincial ties. Tribal leaders and elites abuse commoners for the sake of culture.

However, because Baloch culture lays a significant focus on each individual's freedom and dignity, the state administration may establish a policy that includes Baloch ethos and ideologies. Promoting these cultural elements may encourage people to oppose the tyranny of Sardars and Nawabs. In today's environment, employing culture as a persuasive weapon is incredibly powerful. It is thought to have mild power. Beliefs and styles of cognition are influenced by culture. The state can achieve its goals by employing such a soft power weapon. The government may gradually affect public opinion by drawing attention to some devalued aspects of culture, such as freedom and self-respect, so that people become more aware of them.

5.3 POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT

Baloch people as a whole are underrepresented in the political leadership of Balochistan. The Sardars and Nawabs have absolute power in both Balochistan's traditional politics and the tribes. Inadequate governmental structures in Balochistan are a result of the province's unstable political system. Political leaders in the past have sought their personal interests rather than speaking for the entire public, adopting short-term methods that have strengthened the province's tribal structure. The objective of a political leader has dimmed the lives of the average person. Corruption and poor leadership are widespread issues throughout the province. People do not hold their leaders responsible because they are unaware of their rights, and if they do try to speak out against tyranny, the elites will threaten to kill them. Any type of development cannot take place in the province due to the political climate. Many lawmakers speak out in favour of Balochistan receiving its due part of the CPEC. However, it is unclear if the people would gain from the province's leaders' battles for their fair part of CPEC or only the ruling class. The province's democratic framework is woefully inadequate. General elections typically have low voter turnout. The province's political culture is defined by its ethnic variety. The Baloch ethnic group predominates in this multiethnic area. With numbers equivalent to Baloch, Pashtuns are the second most numerous ethnic groups in the province. The third is Brahvi, which is occasionally combined with Baloch.

Balochistan's political culture varies greatly in line with ethnic distinctions. Districts in Balochistan with a Pashtun majority are free of insurgencies and have a sizable religious political party representation. In locations where the Baloch people reside, nationalist parties have a significant influence. Nevertheless, the province is home to the PPP and PML (N), two political parties.

In order to guarantee true democracy and competition, other parties must work harder and amass greater power; PTI has recently shown itself to be a capable party. It could be able to increase its influence even further and develop into the provincial-level political party. Apart from the fact that there are only two parties running for office in the province, the biggest issue is that the majority of people did not cast a ballot in the general election. The lowest voter turnout occurred in southern Balochistan during the most recent general election.

The insurgencies were centred in Panjgur, Awaran, and Kech in southern Balochistan. However, the Sarawan and Jhalawan regions of central Balochistan outperform in terms of political engagement. Political activities in the Sibi division are better than those in the South because there hasn't been a direct insurgency within the region; yet, Dera Bugti and Kohlu represent a danger. Despite the fact that the eastern, Awaran-region was most impacted by the violence, Lesbela had the highest turnout in the 2013 national elections.

A long-term strategy should be put in place to inform the populace about their political rights in order to resolve Balochistan's political predicament. Encouragement of Baloch residents to engage in politics is essential. Only a nation's will change its destiny, yet the fight for democracy is impossible without an awareness of fundamental rights. The province was given some autonomy by the Eighteenth Amendment. The provincial government was unable to offer anything to the common populace even after taking control of some areas, such as education.

Even in the provincial capital of Quetta, the sanitation and sewage systems have not been upgraded, the literacy rate is declining, the health problems are staying the same, and corruption is still a problem in the province. Any act of prosperity might be hampered by poor leadership and corruption. Even projects approved under the CPEC are gravely threatened by corruption. The Pakistani government must conduct pre-CPEC operationalization steps in order to benefit

from the project. The venture's success might be sabotaged by the political instability. The government will be able to deal with foreign threats by fixing internal issues. Balochistan needs a government and leadership capable of representing the aspirations of the Baloch people. It is vital to bridge the gap between ordinary citizens and the government.

Due to the fact that Balochistan's political system is based on tribal principles, the province faces significant political difficulties. These political issues include poor leadership, corruption, and breaches of human rights. The promotion of democratic forces in the area will take time, but there is no other option. Each individual must get assistance from the central government in achieving democratic ideals. The platforms of the main political parties must reflect the views of the general public. Political and economic sovereignty will be worthless without broad participation. To solve the historical issues facing the province, the democratic process must take the lead.

5.4 USE OF SOFT POWER AGAINST INSURGENCIES

Soft power is a very successful tactic to oppose terrorism, revolt, or any other violent action. This is particularly true in today's culture, when the majority of crimes are driven by radical beliefs that cannot be suppressed via the use of mere force. Complex problems in Balochistan require a range of answers. The insurgencies that sprang from the Baloch reserves are still active today and aim to topple the government. The internal rebel groups that were formed with aid from abroad are currently fighting for unification and national integration. Due to the Baloch origins of these outfits, it is difficult to identify the culprits. The Baloch insurgency employs guerrilla tactics. It has been noted that the military efforts of powerful nations to combat terrorism have not yet proven successful. Even after fifteen years of war, NATO and ISAF still

run against terrorist resistance in Afghanistan, despite possessing the most advanced weapons and support systems.

Although the insurgency in Balochistan has a long history, it is not as dangerous as the terrorism in Afghanistan. In addition to that, the nature of their adversaries is another factor that separates two aggressive bands. The Taliban and America are polar opposites in every sense. The central government, on the other hand, and the Baloch insurgency both share a common religion and culture. The Taliban wanted Afghanistan to become a Sharia-based state by eliminating all democratic standards, but the objectives of violent organisations differ as well.

However, secular ideals that seek for greater control over the resources serve as the driving force for Baloch insurgencies. The barriers between the federal government and the insurgents are not that strong. Although it is difficult to alter public opinion in Balochistan due to the dispersed population and many ethnic groups, hard core techniques will not be successful in obtaining political goals. But the fight for regional peace may benefit from employing soft-core tactics. While the administration has taken attempts to promote culture and provide terrorists who surrender broad amnesty, more of this type of activity has to be encouraged. The state should be transparent about its policy on what will happen to people who surrender, and those who do so should get a range of offers. One of the key issues that insurgents frequently fight for is the availability of basic human rights in the province; the government must ensure that this is the case. If persons who are turning themselves in are not handled properly, they risk falling back into the terrorists' grasp. Pakistan would not be able to endure another wave of insurgent activity in the region since terrorism threatens even developed countries. The basic issues facing the province must be addressed if the government expects CPEC to be implemented properly. There are many methods to use soft forces, such as culture, social media, non-governmental groups,

and more. The government may employ the media as a soft-core instrument to influence the public, just like violent organisations do today to advance their objectives and manipulate the populace.

5.5 RULE OF LAW

The government institutions have a poor hold on the vast areas of Balochistan. In comparison to the province's tribal structure, the authority of law enforcement agencies diminishes. The poor political and administrative framework in the province is just one of several elements that have weakened the rule of law. The weak political and administrative structure has facilitated corruption in both political organisations and the bureaucracy, as was described in a previous section of this chapter. The institutions are rendered ineffective and unable to address the concerns of the province's residents due to the government's lax oversight. This causes pandemonium since, in addition to terrorist attacks; crimes including abduction for ransom, homicide, and snatching are commonplace in the province capital. The chief minister at the time, Dr. Abdul Malik, said that Balochistan's crime rate had dropped by 22% in 2014. Records from the Balochistan Police, however, refute this claim. The institution's data show that in 2013 there were 513 murder cases in the province, and in 2014 there were 596. Despite the fact that the province's in present position has greatly improved. The number of crimes has decreased recently, from 8917 in 2015 to 8563 in 2016. Government institutions, particularly the police, need to be strengthened. The educated Police officers can contribute significantly to the province's security. In these instances, law enforcement forces fall short. The gap between the inadequate security institutions and External forces act against the country by squeezing into these cracks between the people and the Federation.

As the dispersed population of the province still lacks access to prompt and rigorous justice, the litany of crises in Balochistan does not end there. Poor people cannot afford expensive legal fees or drawn-out judicial proceedings. As a result, these people elect the tribe chief to decide their fate in a Jirga. This is one of the main contributing factors to the state institution's decline. Additionally, it permits Sardars and Nawabs to maintain their rule over the province's weaker citizens.

Rule of law and decent government are necessary in the current environment; otherwise, expecting wealth from the CPEC project without addressing the situation in Balochistan is absurd. Law and order problems are the result of a province-specific institutional strategy that is faulty. All around the province, law and order institutions must operate in a transparent and efficient manner. It is impossible to put off the eventual requirement for swift legal enforcement. The participation of outside forces in fostering the insurgencies in this area has already begun. These Balochistan conditions are so clear, since the absence of basic requirements there has shaped a distinctive style of thought that leans towards anti-state attitude. The Baloch youngsters are prone to crime and terrorism because they have no hope. Some residents of the province take a different stance and blame the government for all that is wrong. Even though the entire nation is dealing with the same issue, Balochistan is more affected than other provinces by it. A number of earlier policies haven't had any positive results. The nation, however, is unable to withstand another failure.

CONCLUSION

Balochistan is the poorest region and province of Pakistan in terms of budget resources, economic development, social grooming and political stability. The weak security environment and tribalism have deep influence on Balochistan socio-economic development. However, Balochistan's internal problems have cost a lot of sacrifices. The majority of the population struggles financially and is regarded to be poor. Severe energy problems, which have also destroyed agriculture reliant on tube wells, have crippled the sector. The system cannot be reformed because of corrupt practices, weak institutions, and tribal leadership. These circumstances have widened the divide between the state's elites and the general populace of Balochistan creating a sense of marginalization among Baloch people. Terrorism and insurgencies have stifled the province progress.

The commencement of CPEC has significance in this regard and a substantial opportunity. The fragile political situation in Pakistan contributed to a decline in overseas investment. CPEC, on the other hand, has attracted significant international investment. The mega plan intends to enhance various aspects of the country, including the formerly unimportant province. Gwadar, Balochistan, which serves as the project's main route, has many prospects of success. However, a lot of Baloch still worry about how they fit into the CPEC, which has to be addressed in a variety of different ways. On the other hand, the security risks posed by international bodies call for audacious, useful, and long-term solutions.

FINDINGS

- Due to the negligence of the government of Pakistan, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), will be jeopardized by a number of challenges including insurgency, terrorism, political instability, and other factors. CPEC would be a nightmare for Pakistan if the government repeats its past mistake of neglecting Balochistan.
- For positive utilization of resources and agricultural development, integration of rural and disadvantaged areas is crucial. The creation of several interaction platforms is required by this internal integration.
- The people of Balochistan feel marginalized due to the government policies and their tribal leaders whose clashing interest (various tribal lords) have hindered the general interests of Baloch people
- The weak centralized government writ and the supremacy of Nawabs, Tribal Lords and Sardars have undermined the rights of the common Baloch.
- The Baloch and Pushtoon communities residing in Balochistan have faced marginalization and ethnic complex has shattered the trust of the people of both the communities, over the government and its institutional performance.
- Underdevelopment, illiteracy, unemployment and poor population is vulnerable to outside regional and extra regional actors to be manipulated against Balochistan and the control itself.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Institutions in the political, administrative, and non-governmental sectors all need improvement. All of these organizations are under the supervision of sardars and nawaabs, which keeps money away from the province's ordinary people. Even if it won't be able to fast change the tribal culture of Balochistan, preparations for a peaceful transition must be made. Government officials must develop strategies to make the benefits of CPEC known to the general public.
- In order to guarantee that the general populace receives a fair portion of the province's resources, the people of Balochistan need to be given confidence as stake holder in this mutual development project.
- The settlement of internal issues is a prerequisite for practically every exterior challenge's solution. The nation can be shielded from foreign dangers through internal stability.
- An ethnically, politically, socially divided community gives anti-state radicals a platform for their conflict. Nobody contests the fact that CPEC will alter Pakistan's future. But only if it is done so fairly will it be possible.
- Pakistan may not experience direct competition from other nations since it is a nuclear power, but the prospect of proxy warfare poses a serious concern.

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