



INDIA-CHINA RELATIONS IN 21ST CENTURY

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Abstract

COVID-19, emerged from China's Wuhan, had triggered havoc in whole world. As criticism took place, so China evoked certain techniques particularly military oriented to deviate the attention of allegations that were being thrown upon it by the world regarding the originator country of COVID-19. Military stand-off occurred between India and China in 2020 that left around 20 Indian soldiers died. Consequently, India became offensive at borders as well as on digital platforms while banning certain Chinese apps. This security dilemma again unveiled the continued relevance of a variant of Realism (Neo-Realism) in case of India-China Relations in 21st century. Kenneth Waltz is a prominent exponent of Neo-Realism that insisted upon Self-help in Anarchical Structural in International Politics as well as security Dilemma is main cause of the struggle between two rival states. Republic of China came into being in 1949, then they tried to annex Tibet. Subsequently, India made protest but China convey India about the enough autonomy of Tibet. Consequently, Panchsheel signed but India-China Relations worsened due to Dalailama asylum in India. The 1962 war was fought. Even in this twenty first century India and China relations are government by the Neo-Realist strain. The very recent example of this is Galwan military standoff in 2020. This 21st century is predicted as Asia's century. India and China are two dominant players belong to this region, though China had edge so far than India. But realist strain is always found in India China Relations since 1949 with rare exceptions. Even in this twenty first century, the unresolved border issue is there between India and China. In this research paper India and China relations have been investigated with one variant of Realism i.e., Neo or Structural Realism. The security dilemma is a main principle to regulate the relations of both countries, even in 21st century, where both are suspicious about each other.

Keywords: Neo-Realism, Security Dilemma, Structural Realism, Self-help, Military.

Introduction

Buddhism extended to China from India around one century A.D., so we can trace relationship between India-China since then. Though both had conflict over Tibet issue, Nehru explicitly held India had not any "territorial and political" interest in Tibet. Republic of China wanted to control Tibet and make this area free from Lamaism and feudal and they did it. Although India was not interested, however, they signed an agreement with Tibet in order to carry political and social system of Tibet. "*Hindi-Chini Bhai Bhai*" slogan run since 1950. Consequently, both signed eight years agreement in 1954 as Panchsheel Agreement. During this period relations remained strengthened. They faced 1962 war, China diplomatic role in 1965 war of India with Pak, proxy war by China, the Chola incident in 1967 and skirmish in 1987 over some areas.¹

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on January 1, 1969 during press conference intimated to resolve conflict with China without any precondition. But 1971 war of India with Pakistan created impediment to improve relations with China. In this war, China favors Pakistan. Subsequently, China objected two internal developments in India. First one is about centrally administered designation of Arunachal Pradesh on which it claimed its territory. Another is about the integration of Sikkim in India in 1974 and China became sole country that held Sikkim is an independent states. After 15 years in 1976 both countries restored ambassadorial level diplomatic ties. First high level visit by Vajpayee as a foreign minister in 1979 since 1960 had to cancel in between due to Chinese attack on Vietnam. After 28 years any prime minister, Rajeev

1. KanchanDevi(2021). India China Economic Relations. Third Concept. Vol. No. 34 Jan, p. 21-22.

2. Biswaranjan Mohanty (2012). *Foreign Policy of India in the 21st Century*. New Century Publications, New Delhi, p. 287-288



Ghandhi, visited China in 1988 marked a turning point. Narsimha Rao visited China in 1993 signed an agreement to maintain peace and tranquility along the line of actual control(LAC).²

After four decades of Cultural Revolution, India and China are considered as rising global powers. The Chinese played well in 2008 Olympic. Population wise both countries comprise more than third of humanity. As per Purchasing Power Parity(PPP) China and India are at second and fourth position respectively. Having allowed private players in their economies both reduced poverty through high growth rates. Though both have different regimes- India is elected democracy and China is nominally communist, both shifted away from state central planning.³

Although both required safe transit of natural and petroleum resources from the Indian Ocean Region(IOC) so that both can prosper in modern industrialization. But most period of history(till 1990) of both countries relations remained tensed even they fought a war of 1962. Some warming visible in relations after the disintegration of USSR, that followed again cold relations due to 1998 India's nuclear test. China's key funding backing to Pak in Gwadar Port development after Kargil, assistance over Irrawaddy Corridor Project Kyaukpyu, and its military and novel ties with Myanmar and Pak compelled India to deepen economic ties with 'Vietnam, Laos, the Philippines, Cambodia, Japan, Indonesia and South Korea' on the one hand and strategic military bilateral accord with these countries on the other hand. This competition between these countries portrayed the 'Security Dilemma' which is itself a core principle of Neo-Realism. So many thinkers saw this whole struggle through Neo-Realist prism. Such variant of Realism asserts how conflict is inevitable and certain in this International System. In this particular case, it is considered as an International Sub-System.⁴

Objectives of Research Paper

1. To ascertain the Realist aspect in India-China Relationd in 21st Century.

Methodology:

1. Secondary data collected
2. Realist Approach has been applied from historical account to 21st century's relations of India-China.

Unlimited facts create confusion in world politics. Theories guide us which facts should be taken into consideration or not and keep us on the right track as per particular approach. Theory in I.R is not just a grand formal model with hypothesis and assumptions only, but it is a simplifying device that makes it easy to grasp important aspects through particular theory.⁵

Realism replaced Idealism as dominant approach in IR 1939 onwards. But a new variant of Realism came into being 1970 onwards which was critical to traditional Realism. Kenneth Waltz became a key figure of Neo-Realism (Structural Realism) emphasized on it through his work *The Theory of International Politics* (1979). Key points of Neo-Realism are System theory that asserted on the structure of International System, States have to rely upon Self-help in this anarchical world order, Uncertainty and suspicion remain always in terms of relationship between states. Due to fear of security states remain active to enhance their security which creates suspicion in its counterparts that is called Security Dilemma, States know they have to rely upon Self-help for security. To do so, they indulge in activities to enhance their security. Such activities of one state makes it suspicious in their rival's eyes that ultimately creates Security Dilemma, This permanent insecurity is inescapable consequence of anarchy, States are more concerned about Relative gains.⁶

India-China Relations in 21s Century

19th and 20th centuries belonged to Europe and USA respectively. But 21st century is to Asia that is, projected by various Scholars and journalists on two major grounds. First, India and China are most populous countries in Asia. Second they are future power in Asian continent.⁷

³Lam PengEr, &Lim Tai Wei (2009). *The Rise of China and India: A New Asian Drama*. World Scientific, 2009. P.1-2.

⁴AmardeepAthwal (2008). *China-India Relations: Contemporary Dynamics*. New York, pp.1-4.

⁵John Baylis, et al. (2014). *The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Politics* (6th edition). Oxford University Press, p.3.

⁶Andrew Heywood(2011). *Global Politics*. Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 54-60.

⁷P.M. Kamath (2011). *India-China Relations: An Agenda for the Asian Century*. Gyan, Delhi, p.15.



China is anxious of Tibet independent and waiting for a time being about the death of Dalailama. It is afraid because if Tibet manages get to independent, then this wave even can flow to "Xinjiang, Hong Kong, and end in Taiwan". The major contention between India and China is over border dispute. It remains unresolved so far.⁸

China denied to support Pakistan during Kargil and stated to both countries should respect Line of Control (LoC).⁹

While nuclear test in 1998 A.B. Vajpayee considered Pakistan and China as the threat for India. China asserted its position through militant nationalism with the rise of Xi Zinping since 2008. It frequently blocked Indian application in UN to sanction Jihadi groups in Pakistan. China claimed Arunachal Pradesh as South Tibet. Even it refused visa to Senior Indian military officer who served in Jammu and Kashmir. Consequently, UPA-2 in 2010, when Premier of China visited India, government declined to accept One China Policy i.e, Tibet is a part of China's Sovereignty. As well as China should accept Indian sovereignty over Jammu and Kashmir and Arunachal Pradesh. Some major incidents took place since 2014 under Modi, India omitted one China policy, Dalailama hosted in Rashtrapati Bhawan, American Ambassadors visited Arunachal Pradesh whom China considers 'South Tibet', dignitaries from Taiwan visited India in 2012 and 2014. Although Continuity is on China policy between UPA-2 and Modi government, later more insisted to make relations with Japan and South East Asian countries particularly with Vietnam. Even Modi firmly relied upon building military infrastructure on Indian side Himalayas.¹⁰

In 2017 Chinese troops sought to construct at trijunction area Doklam, Donglang in China that located among China (Chumbi Valley of Tibet), Bhutan (Ha valley) and India (Sikkim). Standoff occurred between India and China after India objected this construction. Strategically it is important area because it located nearby Siliguri that connects mainland India with its northeastern areas. On the other hand, recently China tried to strengthen its position around Chumbi Valley because China is at the disadvantaged position in this region as compare to Bhutan and India. China is continuously strengthening its position as satellite images depicted.¹¹

Early May 2020 China and India continuously involved in clash at Pangong Lake, and other areas like "Galwan valley, Demchok and Daulat Beg Oldi in eastern Ladakh along LAC. Indian construction of Air strip and Road at Galwan valley was opposed by Chinese. Consequently, violent standoff faced by both countries on June 15-16 that left 20 Indian soldiers and many injured although no bullets were fired from both sides. It is first physical skirmish after 1975 where fatalities involved both sides.¹²

Conclusions

Although other theories also make light upon India and China relations, our study is confined to neo realist strain. In twenty first century where globalization occurred over the world, but India and China relations are going on through Security Dilemma principle still today. Recent example is India China standoff at Galwan valley. It also exhibits in terms of military expenditure of both countries. China is striving to capture India's neighboring countries that creates a sort of Security Dilemma. Both countries are confronting on unresolved border issues. Tibet became the bone of contention, then both fought war in 1962. China has also good relations with Pakistan that is an enemy of India. China also defended Pakistan in UNO. India also involved to counter both countries. In this analysis we asserted upon the security dilemma that is a main principle to regulate the relations of both countries, even in 21st century, where both are suspicious about each other.

Suggestions

1. To make cooperation in economic relations
2. To establish Confidence building measure

⁸Y. Yagama Reddy (2012) *India China Relations: Changing Profile in the 21st Century*. Gyan, Delhi, pp. 34-35.

⁹B.R. Deepak(2005). *India & China 1904-2004: A Century of Peace and Conflict*. Manual Publications, New Delhi, pp. 384-389.

¹⁰ReetaChowdhari Tremblay, &Ashok. Kapur (2017).*Modi's Foreign Policy*. Sage Publications, New Delhi, pp. 150-154.

¹¹Josy Joseph (2018). What is the Doklam Issue All About? *The Hindu*.

¹²India-China Standoff: How the Galwan Valley Clash Unfolded. *The Times of India*, 17 June 2020.

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