



## FOREIGN POLICY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS: A PATH TOWARDS GLOBAL PROGRESS

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### Abstract:

This paper explores the crucial role of foreign policy in advancing the sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) established by the United Nations. The SDGs encompass a broad spectrum of objectives aimed at creating a more equitable future for all by 2030. By aligning foreign policy with the SDGs, countries can contribute sustainably to global efforts in achieving these goals. This paper examines various ways in which foreign policy can support the SDGs, including diplomatic cooperation, development assistance, trade and economic policies, peace and security, climate change and environmental protection, as well as human rights and gender equality. By understanding the interconnectedness between foreign policy and sustainable development, policymakers can foster international collaboration and address pressing global challenges, ultimately paving the way for a more prosperous and inclusive world.

**Key word:** Foreign policy, human right, alignments, Sustainable Development Goals, diplomacy, trade policy, global corporations climate change, gender equality, peace and security

### Introduction:

Foreign policy is a fundamental aspect of a nation's governance that shapes its interactions and engagement with other countries on various fronts, including political, economic, and security matters. In recent years, the concept of foreign policy has expanded beyond traditional realms to encompass broader global goals, such as the sustainable development goals. The SDGs adopted by the United Nations in 2015, providing a comprehensive framework for addressing pressing global challenges and promoting sustainable development worldwide. They comprised 17 interconnected goals, encompassing poverty eradication, quality education, health care, gender equality, climate action, and more. Achieving these goals by 2030 requires concerted efforts from governments, international organizations, civil society, and the private sector. The relationship between foreign policy and the SDGs is the topic of increasing importance and interest. It explores how a nation's foreign policy decisions and actions can support the progress towards the SDGs. When foreign policy aligns with sustainable development objectives, it can serve as a powerful tool for advancing the global goal through diplomatic negotiations, development assistance, climate change, and more. Foreign policy plays an important role in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs are a set of 17 goals established by the United Nations in 2015, aiming to achieve a sustainable and equitable future for all by 2030. These goals cover a wide range of issues, including poverty eradication, education, healthcare, gender equality, climate action, and more. Foreign policy refers to a country's strategies and actions concerning its relationships with other nations and international organizations. By aligning foreign policy with the SDGs, countries can contribute to the global efforts of achieving these goals. Here are some ways foreign policy can support the SDGs:

**Diplomacy and Cooperation:** Foreign policy can facilitate diplomatic efforts and international



encourage innovation as a means to tackle sustainable development challenges. Innovation plays a important role in finding new solutions, technologies, and approaches to address complex global issues. Foreign policy can create an enabling environment for innovation by promoting research and development, supporting entrepreneurship, and facilitating knowledge exchange between countries. It can also establish policies and incentives to encourage investment in sustainable technologies and promote the diffusion of innovation across borders.

**Conclusion :** foreign policy has a significant role to play in advancing the SDGs and fostering innovation. Through international cooperation, partnerships, and diplomatic efforts, foreign policy can mobilize resources and drive collective action towards achieving the SDGs. Additionally, by promoting innovation and creating an enabling environment, foreign policy can spur the development and implementation of new solutions to address sustainable development challenges. A proactive and strategic foreign policy approach is essential to maximize the impact of global efforts towards the SDGs and foster a more sustainable and prosperous future for all . Foreign policy and the SDGs are intertwined, offering a pathway towards global progress. Through diplomatic channels, multilateral cooperation and partnership foreign policy can effectively contribute to the implications of the SDGs, addressing pressing Global challenges.

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## Transformation Of China's Maritime Strategy In The 21<sup>st</sup> Century

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### Abstract

*China's maritime development and its position across the globe under the People Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) has raised concern to the international community. China is developing its navy has never seen before. This paper is an attempt to trace the China's maritime strategy and its linkages with its ambitious project the 21<sup>st</sup> century Maritime Silk Road. The current study has focused on the role, missions and strategic transformation of PLAN. This paper also traces the China's threat perception in the maritime domain. Further the paper has discussed the China's interests from near sea to the far sea as a maritime strategy. Further this paper examines the different measures taken by China to safeguard its maritime rights and interests. The overall objective of the study is to understand the China's maritime strategy, its aspiration and its future endeavor to become a potent maritime country.*

**Key Words:** *China, People Liberation Army Navy, Maritime Silk Road, Defence White Paper, South China Sea, Sea Line of Communication.*

### Introduction

History reveals that China has one of the oldest naval tradition in the world. In past two decades it has been observed that the government of China has shown a great interest to develop and transform of its navy to protect and promote its maritime interests. China's maritime development has gone through several ups and down. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century China had lost its control of coastal lines as it has attacked and invaded several times through sea. Primarily Sino-Japanese war of 1894-95 in that China got defeated by Japanese and their forces occupied several provinces coastal areas of China. Hence, learning from the past and frequent attacks in 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century China headed forward for its maritime development.

After the establishment of Chinese Communist Party (CCP) in 1945, People Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) has been formed for and become a large coastal force by 1957. PLAN got support of Soviet and facilitated in terms of transfer of ships and technology to China. It has developed its PLAN as a coastal defense force to counter its antagonist Taiwan and United States in 1950. China's naval development restrain between 1960-70 when its relation with soviet started crumbling due to their ideological level and territorial disputes. However, after getting a formal entry into the United Nation membership China started actively participate in international forum such as the Law of Sea negotiations. Then only China taken decision to expand its merchant marine and modernize and enlarge the shipbuilding industry and port facilities.

In collaboration with the Soviet Union, China developed its maritime infrastructure including merchant ships, naval combatants and above all nuclear submarines. China during Deng Xiaoping regime had a vision which gave four-point modernizations program to strengthen the field of agriculture, industry, national defence and science and technology to its country, which left an important impact on the coastal zone and contributed to its national economy. Not only this, but even China's academic institutions were also instructed to impart knowledge about the significance of maritime power. The central aim behind this paradigm shift in academics was intended to transform China into a strong maritime power.

In 1953 Mao stated that China has to build a strong navy to defend them against imperialist aggression. Subsequently, in 1979 Deng Xiaoping called for a powerful navy and in November 2012

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## **Envisioning Indo-China Future Prospect Through New Silk Road**

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### **Abstract**

*China's vision on the New Silk Road is to provide a platform for the development and growth of India as well as China. The revival of the ancient Silk Road in 21<sup>st</sup> century has the potential to change the global politics and economy of the international community. The new Silk Road comprises of two components such as Silk Road Economic Belt (SREB) and Maritime Silk Road (MSR), also known as Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). India's reservation behind opposition to the project is major concern for China. The current government showed his concerns of joining the new Silk Road as China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) passes through Kashmir region of India. It also envisions that despite many reservations among Indian diplomats, it can turn out to be a game changer in many respects - Economic development, exchange of science & technology, tourism, cultural exchange, a climate of peace and stability, and can also bring a paradigm shift which would help building trust between both the nations. The current paper attempts to envision Indo-China future prospect through the lens of the new silk road initiative proposed by Xi Jinping in 2013.*

**Keywords:** Silk Road, BRI, SREB, MSR, CPEC, India, China.

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# China's Engagement In The South China Sea

**Manish Ranjan\***

## **Abstract:**

China's aspiration to become a maritime power is evident through its naval expansion in the South China Sea (SCS). In the past two decades China's activities in the SCS has increased rapidly. Chinese naval expansion, infrastructure development and its territorial claim in SCS has created concern in the region. This paper aims to explore the current situation of the SCS and examines the China's interest in the region. The current paper has analysed the SCS disputes and traces the core issues of the conflict in the region. Moreover, the paper also discussed the other claimant countries at general and explores the significance of SCS for China as well as the entire region. The current paper also highlights the geopolitics in the region and the China's naval strategy in the SCS.

**Key Words:** *China, South China Sea (SCS), ASEAN, Indian Ocean, UNCLOS, Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), Defence White Paper (DWP).*

## **Introduction**

History reveals that the South China Sea (SCS) has always remained significant due to its strategic location. The ancient kingdoms of South Asia not only flourished on the seaborne trade but at the same time this maritime connection gave a new shape to the Southeast Asian culture; taking elements from the neighbours such as India and China. SCS domain has also played as the medium of activities between Indian, Chinese and the South-East Asians. Other than that, the identification of SCS and the Indian Ocean was not known to the early modern seafarers visiting this region. It is argued that the areas of the Indonesian archipelago falling within the realm of today's Indian Ocean region were considered as part of SCS because to the early modern Asian merchants, SCS and Indian Ocean formed one single stretch of water body with series of Seas, Islands and bays extending from east coast of Africa to west coast of Malaya and Sumatra from the Chinese coast to west coast of Malaya including the Philippines, Taiwan and the Indonesian archipelago. This whole region formed a heart of trade network in South, Southeast and East Asian Region (Bhattacharya 2017). In the past two decades it is evident that the dispute in the SCS is on its pick. The SCS is one of the largest, semi-enclosed sea located in the south of mainland China and Taiwan, east of Vietnam, west of the Philippines, and north of Brunei and Malaysia in the Pacific Ocean. SCS covers 1,40,000 square miles with several islands. The most important groups of islands are the Paracel Islands and the Spratly Islands. The SCS is strategically very important and also a major shipping route that connects the Indian Ocean to the Pacific Ocean and Australia.

## **Importance of the South China Sea**

The SCS is the economic lifeline for everything in the region right from fishing to energy exploration. The issue has gone beyond the territorial claims after the increase in energy demands by China and other countries. During 1990s, China not only occupied the Philippines controlled reefs and Spratly islands but started expanding her air and naval forces adopting an aggressive posture in the SCS. China not only pursues to protect its political interests but also security and economic interest. One-third of the total world trade-ships cross every year and it is estimated \$5 trillion worth of goods are transported through SCS shipping lanes each year (Fensom 2016). In a quantity with two-thirds of South Korea's energy supplies, nearly 60% of Japan's and Taiwan's, and 80% of China's crude oil imports flow through the. Moreover, the SCS has a massive potential of gas and oil reserves and natural resources. Approximately 11 billion barrel oil and 190 lakh crore cubic feet natural gas, 12% of world fish, approximately 30% of the coral reefs in the world are located in the SCS (Sen 2016). The SCS maritime zone is coming up as a crucial factor in the geopolitical affair of Asia as the global power shifting.

## **The South China Sea Dispute**

The SCS dispute is related to territorial sovereignty in oceans whereas the Paracel and the Spratly are the major disputed islands in the region. Although, these two islands Paracel and Spratly islands claimed in whole or part by several countries but China also claims upon these two as their territorial water which is the foremost issue of dispute between China and Philippines (Keck 2014). Both the Philippines and China claim to the Scarborough

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resources. Also SCS is strategically, economically and politically more important. Chinese energy demand has increased in past two decades and seeking for huge amount of energy and resources for the development of China and fulfil its demand of the citizens of China. Chinese engagements in SCS with its infrastructure developments and artificial ports building showing not only its geographical expansion but also military muscles to the other countries in the region. There is a need of trust building between China and the ASEAN countries. In 2013 China has announced its 21<sup>st</sup> century Maritime Silk Road, which is also an ambitious project of China. For the successful of Chinese project there is a need of trust building among the SCS countries. China have to show big heart to maintain peace, harmony and prosperity in the region. This is only a mechanism which will help both China and SCS countries in their development. But one should not forget that China is very cunning and self-centric nation. Hence, it before accepting any Chinese proposal every nation should think thousands of time.

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## ***River Water Dispute: A Factor in Indo-China Relations***

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### **Abstract**

*India and China not only share a 3488 km long border but also share numerous watercourses including Brahmaputra River which is one among the major rivers of Asia. While both the riparian nations are water stressed, as well as the scarcity may worsen the competition over the shared water resources in their trans-boundary rivers, particularly the Brahmaputra River is set to intensify. Despite the many attempts made by India still there is no treaty between the two nations for water sharing device mechanism to govern and manage the water resources. Since, there is no effective working mechanism between the countries and in addition China's construction of dams (along Yarlung Zangbo), hydro power projects and its plan to divert the course of the rivers will seriously affect the agriculture and livelihoods of the entire region of North East India and water conflicts could potentially become a serious challenge and may further overshadow the border dispute and make relations between the neighbours more stained and complex. The issue can be harmoniously resolved through an institutionalized agreement on sharing the Brahmaputra River water between the two riparian states.*

**Keywords:** Water Conflicts, India-China, Brahmaputra River Dispute, Great Bend Northeast.

### **Introduction**

Brahmaputra is a trans-boundary river originates from Himalaya in south of Tibet near Mansarovar, flows through China, India and Bangladesh. The Brahmaputra River also known as *Yarlung Tsangpo* in Tibetan language and is the major arm of the Ganga-Meghna- Brahmaputra system. It passes to south meet at Padma (branch of Ganga), then it further flows to Bay of Bengal through Bangladesh after travelling to 2900 km. Brahmaputra is a life line for north-east region and is 29<sup>th</sup> longest river of the world flowing around 918 kms in India and 363 kms in Bangladesh.<sup>1</sup> Brahmaputra is a precious gift of nature endowed with enormous natural resources and the huge potential with water resources of India's total hydropower 41% and 30% respectively.<sup>2</sup> The average discharge of the river is about 19,300 cubic meters per second and it is navigable for most of its length. The potential for hydroelectricity generation from the river is great and essential for developing countries like India and China. Brahmaputra is a wealth of river in northeast region as well considered as sacred in India. With the five percent of India's total area and thirty percent of total national water resources Northeast is having 16,589 cubic meters water availability as compared to the national figure of 2,208 cubic meters. It has also shaped since many years the socio economic, cultural, religious, political and linguistic fabric of the northeast region of India. Brahmaputra river play a key role to meet their livelihood in the form of fishing, cultivation of different types of crops, irrigation, cattle and transportation including men, materials and animals. During the colonial period Brahmaputra has served as a means of transportation and communication of merchandise and people from and to northeast. The river was used for the export of tea, leather, jute grown in earlier time from Assam to Calcutta (now Kolkata) and vice-versa. Fishing, marine farming, agriculture is the main occupation of the people of northeast. Ship transportation creates employment in the region for thousands of people.

Bank of Brahmaputra is also famous for tourist hot spots, especially cruise tourism has emerged as an important adventure and pleasure tourism across the river and recognized as one of the top 10 most adventures cruises by CNN. This river contributes daily basis to about 30 percent of the total average people in the region get direct daily employment in the ferries, in bamboo transportation trade, retail shops and services units along the river and indirect employment. In Assam there are 46 dams situated in the Brahmaputra basin out of which three are in various stages

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100