

Topic Overview: China's Relationship with Pakistan

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Background

China's relations with Pakistan were formed out of mutual military concerns in the 1950s and 60s. China and Pakistan officially entered into a strategic alliance in 1972. Since then, both countries have used each other to play off the United States. Furthermore, Pakistan's frosty relations with India and China's distaste for India have pushed the two countries together as well. China sees Pakistan as an important partner in defense and in trade, and Pakistan is due to be a part of China's One Belt and New Silk Road trade ambitions.

Defense

China helps Pakistan with nuclear program

(Ch Viyyanna Sastry is a research fellow at the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, "China to Supply Two Nuclear Reactors to Pakistan: How will China Convince the NSG?" Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, http://www.idsa.in/idsacomments/ChinatoSupplyTwoNuclearReactorstPakistan_cvsastry_070510, May 2010)

Since the visit of Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari to China in October 2008 during which several Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) were signed, reports of the[re is] Chinese intent to supply two more Pressurised Water Reactors have been appearing in the media. The reactors are likely to come up at the Chashma site, where a Chinese built reactor has already been functioning since 2000 while a second reactor is being constructed and is likely to start operation next year. The issue of civil nuclear cooperation appeared prominently earlier during the visit of the Chinese President Hu Jintao to Pakistan in 2006 as well. However, it is not clear how China intends to proceed with the deal given that since 2004 it is a party to the 46-member Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) whose modified guidelines of 1992 stipulate that nuclear transfers to States that do not have IAEA full-scope safeguards agreement in place are prohibited.

Pakistan turns to China for nuclear help after US inaction

(Ch Viyyanna Sastry is a research fellow at the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, "China to Supply Two Nuclear Reactors to Pakistan: How will China Convince the NSG?" Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, http://www.idsa.in/idsacomments/ChinatoSupplyTwoNuclearReactorstPakistan_cvsastry_070510, May 2010)

Pakistan has long been demanding from the US a deal similar to the Indo-US nuclear agreement. Simultaneously, Pakistan had turned to China in anticipation of an analogous deal. Though China voiced its opposition to the Indo-US nuclear agreement as discriminatory and supported the Pakistani viewpoint on a criteria-based approach for NSG waiver to non-NPT States, China finally allowed the deal to pass through. But, there were no indications on how China wished

to proceed with its civil nuclear cooperation with Pakistan. Now, it appears that China has decided to let the world know about its intentions. The Chinese motive appears to be indicative of three things: i) showcasing its capability as a nuclear energy supplier country; ii) the importance it attaches to Pakistan, and iii) its selective compliance with international regimes.

China is Pakistan's arms provider

(Mandip Singh is a senior fellow at the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses and a brigadier general in the Indian army, "Li Keqiang Visit to Pakistan: Assessing the Outcome," Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, http://www.idsa.in/issuebrief/LiKeqiangVisittoPakistan_mandipsingh_050613, June 2013)

China is Pakistan's largest supplier of arms. According to SIPRI, in 2012, China exported 55 per cent of its total arms exports to Pakistan alone. Pakistan's entire strategic weapon arsenal is of Chinese design and supplied largely from China. In addition China has joint ventures with the Pakistan military industrial complex in various projects. Orders from Pakistan are essential to keep the Chinese military industrial complex humming and in turn Pakistan benefits from cheaper and assured supplies of military hardware. The key joint projects which are in various stages of completion are:

Military cooperation between China and Pakistan

(Gareth Price is a senior research fellow at Chatham House, and a fellow at the University of Edinburgh, "China Pakistan Relations," Europe China Research and Advice Network, http://eeas.europa.eu/china/docs/division_ecran/ecran_is1_china_pakistan_relations_gareth_price_en.pdf, February 2011)

China is the largest provider of military equipment to Pakistan; unlike Western countries, China is unlikely to impose military sanctions on Pakistan. Military cooperation in both conventional and non-conventional security is strengthening. The JF-17 combat aircraft is the most notable piece of military hardware that is jointly produced. Pakistan also purchases frigates and tank components from Pakistan and in recent years China has supplied an increasing amount of counter-terrorism equipment, such as explosive scanners, to Pakistan. Military cooperation between China and Pakistan started in the 1960s when China began supplying arms to Pakistan and established a number of arms factories in Pakistan. The Karokoram Highway (connecting Kashgar with Pakistan) was justified as a means of allowing China to provide military aid to Pakistan. Both countries supported anti-Soviet fighters in Afghanistan during the 1980s. China's cooperation was driven by concern over India. From 1990, following the US imposition of sanctions on Pakistan, China became Pakistan's largest weapons supplier, and supplier of choice given Western history of imposing sanctions on Pakistan.

Economy

China is a major investor in Pakistan

(Gareth Price is a senior research fellow at Chatham House, and a fellow at the University of Edinburgh, "China Pakistan Relations," Europe China Research and Advice Network, http://eeas.europa.eu/china/docs/division_ecran/ecran_is1_china_pakistan_relations_gareth_price_en.pdf, February 2011)

The investment figures given by Pakistan mask a range of Chinese investment for which no cash transfer takes place. These appear to include the construction of Gwadar Port in Baluchistan, and

work building highways in Gilgit-Baltistan. China's military is also involved in construction projects, including the [and] upgrading of the Karakoram Highway. The ultimate intention is to provide road and rail links from Xinjiang through to Gwadar Port. China is also involved in the construction of the 4,500MW Neelam-Jhelum hydro-electric project in Kashmir. In August 2010 the New York Times reported that there was evidence that China had deployed up to 11,000 troops in Gilgit-Baltistan in Northern Pakistan to build new infrastructure to give China access to the Gulf. Both China and Pakistan denied the reports. Pakistan claimed the troops were engineers rebuilding the Karakoram Highway following the floods of 2010. China claimed they were providing humanitarian aid and assistance at the request of the Pakistani government. The report angered India.

China has a specific economic interest in Pakistan

(Waheeda Rana is an assistant professor of political science and international relations at the International Islamic University, "Changing Dynamics of Pak-China Relations: Policy Recommendations for Pakistan," American International Journal of Contemporary Research, http://www.aijcrnet.com/journals/Vol_5_No_2_April_2015/13.pdf, April 2015)

China has economic and strategic interest in Gwadar. Gwadar is expected to play[s] a key role in Beijing's development plans and will serve as a gateway for western China because Xinjiang lies 4500 kms from China's east coast but just 2500 kms from Gwadar. Pakistan can act as "a transit facility" giving China access to Central Asian markets and energy sources"(Khan, 2006). China is much concerned about the possibility of disruptions in the movement of oil and gas tankers to China from the Gulf and Africa through the Malacca Straits due to attacks by pirates and/or terrorists. For this reason, China wants to reduce its dependence on the Malacca Straits and is making eminent efforts to develop alternate routes (Joseph, 2005). Presence in Gwadar will allow China not only access and basing facilities in the Indian Ocean [and] but also the chance to control the Straits of Hormuz to ensure smooth energy supplies from West Asia (Kapila, 2002). This would help China to acquire a strategic presence in this region. Pakistan has also agreed to let China set up a "Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Gwadar, exclusively for the use of Chinese industries manufacturing goods for export to Africa."(Raman, 2007). This would help reducing the manufacturing and transport costs for Chinese goods. Pakistan can provide China an access to Indian Ocean, where India considers China its competitor. According to analysis of a retired Indian Brigadier:

Infrastructure investment

(Sabir Ahmad Khan is a professor at the University of Peshwar, "Geo-Economic Imperative of Gwadar Sea Port and Kashgar Economic Zone for Pakistan and China," Islamabad Policy Research Institute, <http://www.ipripak.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/art5sha.pdf>, Summer 2013)

The deep-sea port is located at Gwadar in Balochistan, 460 km west of Karachi at the top of the Arabian Sea, approximately 75 km east of Iran's border with Pakistan and 400 km from the Strait of Hormuz, which is the only sea passage to the Persian Gulf from open sea. Around 80 per cent of world oil tankers move from the Persian Gulf while 45 per cent of world oil movement takes place through the Strait of Hormuz. Gwadar is already connected to Karachi through the Makran Coastal highway, built with Chinese assistance of \$200 m.

Pakistan and China plan to connect the Port via Indus Highway with Ratodero and KKH which leads to Kashgar – around 414 km from Sost-Tashkurgan (China-Pakistan border) and further reaches to Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan. All these states – Pakistan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan are signatories of quadrilateral trade agreements to utilize this land route for regional trade. This agreement became operational in 2004 when a Pakistani businessman exported goods to Almaty, Kazakhstan via KKH through Kashgar for the first time². Road distance from Gwadar to Khunjrab (via Ratodero, Dera Ghazi Khan, Peshawar, Abbottabad, Gilgit) is 2627 km. The Gwadar-Turbat-Ratodero highway has been completed in 2012 at a cost of Rs 18 billion.

Nuclear aid from China

(Mehmood Hussain has a PhD in International Relations and Affairs from Jilin University, "Sino-Pakistan Military-Nuclear Cooperation and Balance of Power," Journal of American Academic Research, [Pakistan started its nuclear program in 1972, after it was defeated in a war with India in 1971. Nuclear program reached its new heights in 1975, when a Pakistani scientist named; Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan, who was German trained metallurgist, joined the nuclear program. China played a key role in the development of Pakistan's nuclear infrastructure, especially when western countries cut their consignments under the U.S sanctions. China has supplied Pakistan nuclear material and technical expertise and has provided critical assistance in the construction of Pakistan's nuclear facilities. In 1990, China designed and supplied \[a\] the heavy water Khushab reactor, which plays a key role for the production of plutonium. Later China also provides 5000 custom made ring magnets which are key components of the bearing that facilitate the high speed rotation of centrifuges. \("Pakistan Nuclear Weapons, A Brief History of Pakistan's Nuclear Program," 2002\) Chinese strategy in transferring nuclear and missile materials and technology to Pakistan drive largely from Chinese concerns about the regional balance of power. China is driving containment strategy to limit Indian military power capabilities in south Asia. As a military ally of Pakistan and an adversary of India, China has helped Islamabad to build its nuclear and missile capabilities. China provides nuclear assistance to Pakistan to counter balance India militarily and politically. India is the only Asian state \(with the possible exception of Japan\) which has the potential, and inclination, to balance china. China wants to keep Pakistan independent, powerful and confident in order to present India with a standing two front threat.](http://s3.amazonaws.com/academia.edu.documents/44421046/JAAR_Author_Mehmood_Hussain.pdf?AWSAccessKeyId=AKIAJ56TQJRTWSMTNPEA&Expires=1466531142&Signature=fluD3uZfaHosHo7WR3B7C1XTkF4%3D&response-content-disposition=inline%3B%20filename%3DSino_-Pakistan_Military_-Nuclear_Coopera.pdf, 2015)</i></p></div><div data-bbox=)