

**BRI: China's role in global peace and development**

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**Abstract**

Belt and Road is an international trade interconnectivity Initiative that intersects countries through seaports, roads, corridors, railways, bridges, gas, and oil pipelines etc. In view of U.S., Japan and India, China's economic influence and rise is rapidly growing particularly through this initiative which is not for peaceful purposes. The initiative is endorsing cooperation, interdependence, and development throughout among the countries of various regions. It is projecting neoliberalism by empowering the economies of the developing countries and boosting their social progress by providing financial assistance for development infrastructures and projects. It is bringing idea of common peace and development. In paper, the descriptive-analytical approach has been used to examines China's role under the initiative for promoting mutual, development, peace, and interdependence particularly in Singapore Seaport, Strait of Malacca and Kyaukpru Seaport, Myanmar.

**Keywords:** Belt Road Initiative, Rise threat for peace, Mutual Peace and Development, Singapore, Strait of Malacca, Kyaukpru seaport Myanmar

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**Introduction**

Belt and Road initiative was firstly proposed by President Xi Jinping in 2013 during his visit to Indonesia and Kazakhstan. The initiative is the renovation of the Old Silk Road which was being constructed during Han dynasty (206 BC -220 AD). It connected trade and economy of Asia, the Central-Asia, the Middle East, and Africa. Currently, China desires to revoke its old glory when it was an economic power of the Asia to achieve a dream that was given by Deng Xiaoping to develop country as one of the most developed and industrialized. Its purpose is to bring more development and prosperity to its people to draw them out from backwardness and poverty. It wants to eliminate separation voices in its western part by providing economic development and trade connectivity there. Besides this, it is equally promoting mutual economic and trade development, cooperation, and peace to other countries by engaging them on seaports and road connectivity.

On Road Initiative, China is also connecting Myanmar, Singapore, and the Strait of Malacca. The Strait of Malacca is an important and main trade passage for it (China) where its 80 percent oil and other commodities are passing. It has security threats in Strait of Malacca from U.S. and its ally Japan and strategic partner India. As these three are the most influential countries of the area; U.S. is militarizing Asia-Pacific to balance China's growing influence and it has a military base in Malaysia that borders the Strait of Malacca. Japan is working in the region as U.S. close military ally. India and Japan cooperation has been increased particularly by increasing their connectivity and interaction with countries on the initiative.

China, to secure its trade transaction, is making alternative trade passages at the initiative which are China-Pakistan economic corridor (CPEC), Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar (BCIM) economic corridor and Cara-Isthmus canal corridor at Thailand etc. These trade passages would provide safety to its trade transaction which is not secured through Strait of Malacca.

In South-East Asia particularly, China and U.S. policies are quite different. As, the Washington is rapidly making military bases and alliances in the region to balance its influence with China and to secure its economic and political interests. Though, Beijing is increasing its economic and political influence by promoting mutual development, peace, prosperity, and interdependence to the countries.

The paper elaborates China's role for development and peace on Belt and Road Initiative, the overall impacts of initiative's increasing interconnectivity on regional and international trends, and its effects on the countries relations which are moving to follow new patterns of cooperation and interdependence. Its (China) role has been described and critically analyzed under the initiative in bringing development to Singapore seaport, Strait of Malacca and Kyaukpru Seaport, Myanmar. The challenges are defined that it endures on the initiative with its policy solutions to those problems. The above-mentioned segments are described and analyzed to prove hypothesis statement true or false that whether it's (China) rise is peaceful or not peaceful on the initiative. The Initiative is an international economic and trade interconnectivity project. It is equally boosting China and other countries trade, social development, and prosperity.

### **China's policy ambitions on belt and road initiative**

Belt and Road are the two routes of the initiative; Belt is a land-route that begins from western part of China and connecting four regions like the Central-Asia, Africa, the Middle-East and Europe through roads, bridges, railways, oil and gas pipeline projects etc. Road is a sea-route that starts from South-East China and connects its own seaports like Fujian, Xin Gang, Qingdao, Shanghai, Ningbo and Hong-Kong with the seaports of other countries includes Muara seaport of Brunei, Sihanoukville seaport Cambodia, Khaukpyu seaport of Myanmar, Chittagong seaport of Bangladesh and Hambantota seaport of Sri-Lanka, Maldives seaport and Gwadar seaport, Pakistan and Sudan Seaport. These two routes (Belt and Road) intersect each other at Venice Italy (Cia, 2017).

The structure of entire Belt and Road Initiative is consisted of seaports, roads, bridges, railways, canals, gas and oil pipelines, dry-ports, and free trade economic zones etc. It brings transnational connectivity among the regions of the Central-Asia, Middle East, Africa, Europe, and Asia. It is connecting 65 countries that constructing 62 percent of global GDP and covers 62 percent of total world population. It (initiative) covers total 75 percent of world's energy reserves (Belt and Road Initiative, 2018).

On Initiative, China is providing financial and technological assistance to the countries for the development of infrastructures and energy development programs i.e. corridors, oil and gas development projects, bridges, roads, canals, education institutions, industries, and free-trade economic zones etc. In 2015, it has developed two financial institutions known as the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and the New Silk Road Fund with an aim to provide financial assistance to countries for development that are associated with the initiative. It has provided \$ 60 billion dollars as foreign direct investment to countries that are part of the initiative (Abrar, 2018).

In 2018, China's trade with other countries on Belt and Road Initiative was around \$ 1.3 trillion dollars that is increasing year by year by 16.3 percent ratio. Its trade investment is increasing rapidly in these countries. Its non-financial direct investment is \$ 15.64 billion in 56 countries that are part of this initiative with an increase of 8.9 percent (Zhongyuan, 2019).

The Initiative is open for participation for all the countries, organizations, and individuals. About 10,000 individuals belongs to political parties, think-tanks, non-governmental organizations are participants of this initiative (10 amazing Belt and Road Initiative Projects, 2019).

Under the initiative, cooperation in between the countries and the organizations is increasing day by day. About 173 cooperation agreements are being signed among 125 countries and 29 international organizations. In 2018, China and other countries has signed trade agreements of worth \$ 389.1 billion. In same year, its investment in these countries has been increased to 17.3 percent. It has built 75 trade and economic zones along with Belt and Road Initiative that constitutes total investment about \$25.5 billion (China signs more trade deals, 2018).

Though, throughout the regions China is enhancing its economic and trade influence and increasing other's countries interdependence over it but along that it is also providing growing economic benefits to other countries also. By promoting neoliberalism, it is endorsing mutual trade and economic development to the countries. It is providing more employment opportunities to the people. It is increasing the welfare of the individuals. It intends to sign free-trade agreements with more countries. The initiative is entirely based on economic and trade development. It provides better future, development, and prosperity to almost half population of the world. It is particularly empowering the developing countries. It is introducing new world trend of mutual peace and development (Xi delivers keynote speech, 2019).

### **Singapore seaport**

China and Singapore officially pledged to connect Ningbo seaport of Beijing with the Singapore Seaport. The Singapore port is located at the internal edge of Strait of Malacca where China's feels that its trade transaction could be attacked by US and Japan. In spite acknowledging that, China is going to connect Singapore port to increase economic interdependence in conflicting-prone area of Malacca to alleviate the growing threats to its security by developing peaceful cooperative environment in the region. Moreover, to gain more and more advantages from economically rich Singapore by putting more investment, economic and social development cooperation and by global trade transaction. Singapore also ensures the trade routes safety to China as it also desires to gain economic development by get connecting on Road initiative.

Singapore is among one of the busiest and largest port of the world that has vast trade linkages as it is connected to about 600 ports that are in more than 120 countries (Premier, 2015). The geographical location of the seaport is significant as it provides connectivity to almost all the regions of the world includes South Asia, South East Asia and East Asia, Pacific etc. Through this seaport connectivity, China desires to increase its trade and exports to the international markets through Singapore (What Maritime Singapore offers, 2015).

The geographical location of Ningbo port is significant as it provides easy access to inside areas of China and to global regions of America, Europe, the Middle East, and Oceania etc. It is a deep-water seaport (Natural Conditions, 2007). It broadly links almost all the coastal ports of China that mostly situated in the eastern part of the China. It plays an important role in developing the economy of China's eastern part. It is facilitating trade inside country and specifically of surrounding areas through connected broad road and railway networks, pipeline, and airport link. Such transportation connections are also facilitating Ningbo trade with other surrounding countries (Port Surroundings, 2007).

The Ningbo port is currently connected through roads, pipelines and railway line to the inside South, Central, North, and Western parts of China. Its (China) many hopes are connected to this port that in near future this would increase trade development and social prosperity to these areas. In near future, this port will be the central trade-hub of China that will extensively boost the trade and it provides more job opportunities to people (Natural Conditions, 2007). The port is connected to about 600 ports on more than 100 countries and to the different regions of the world. It was ranked as the 10th best port of the world. It is one of best port of China that has a growing and healthy development (Corporate Overview, 2015). Under Road initiative, China and Singapore has increased trade cooperation. Both countries have various free trade development agreements (Premier, 2015). They have a cooperation in civil aviation services. China is a major investor in Singapore economic, energy and infrastructure sectors. It has developed two industrial parks, Wuxi-Singapore Industrial park and China-Singapore Suzhou Industrial park that are selling solar energy, information technology, power supply

equipment and foodstuffs, textiles, new material, pharmaceutical and electronic products. These two parks are adding great economic benefits to both China and Singapore. As these industrial parks work as an export and selling market for China's goods and products and these are increasing capacity and strength of economic growth of Singapore as well. On basis of initiative, the growing cooperation of both countries is remarkable. Both countries trade sell and production will likely be increased through these commercial industrial parks and more economic developments would be held (Singapore -China industrial park, 2015). Moreover, their old economic, diplomatic, and political relations will get more strengthened than before (Premier, 2015).

In 2014, the economic growth rate between both countries has reached to 8.3 percent that is high than overall economic slowdown in the country (Singapore - China industrial park, 2015). In framework of increasing neoliberalism, Belt Road cooperation will bring development, equal benefits, openness, broadness, and cooperation for both countries. These will also get opportunity to develop their technology and economic sectors at their best. These job opportunities, social economic prosperity and development will be increased. Overall, China's investment will be increased more (Stewart, 2015).

### **Strait of Malacca**

Strait of Malacca is a joining trade passage that joins various regions includes East Asia, South East Asia, Oceania, South Asia, Middle East, Africa, Europe, and Central Asia. This trade passage is economically significant for China where it is passing 80 percent of oil and gas imports from Gulf countries to its South-Eastern part (Pant, 2012; Yanrong & Juan, 2015). Besides this route, it (China) is transacting its trade through Strait of Lombok and Strait of Sunda which are quiet narrow passages than Malacca. That is why, Malacca is vital trade passage for China as it is more broader energy corridor than the other passages located in the region (Potter, 2012; Len, 2015).

Currently, China's growing economic interconnectivity and influence is threatening the interests of U.S. To maintain its power as in balance with Beijing, the Washington is speedily making military bases and alliances in Asia. It did propose a plan to establish a "New Silk Road" project that intersect Afghanistan with Asia (All countries expect China), Australia, Africa, the Central-Asia, and finally U.S. Its main purpose to counter China's influence and to secure equal interests in these regions.

However, particularly at Indian Ocean and the Strait of Malacca, U.S.'s hegemony, competition and aggressiveness poses a security threat to China's trade transaction. In 1993, the Washington blocked the Strait of Malacca for Beijing's trade transaction because of conflicting tension in Taiwan. Still, the Strait of Malacca is under the military influence of U.S. and Japan. China's scholars and policymakers are identifying this lingering threat as "Energy Security". Moreover, the government to deal with this (Energy Security) problem, sets two main objectives to avail on Belt and Road initiative; one is to gain economic development

and second is to develop alternative safe trade routes of Indian Ocean and Strait of Malacca. China's fear could be judged by the official statement of ex-president Hu Jintao who said "China is defenseless, and it could be attacked in Strait of Malacca (Pant, 2012; Len, 2015).

U.S.'s policy-makers and scholars says that the Strait of Malacca is under the threat of global terrorism that if it does not be cured in time then it could be expanded throughout the regions. Through these statements, U.S. is trying to provide justification to hide its aggressive ambitions against China as besides militarization it is increasingly developing military supportive relations with the Asian countries. In response to the Washington these statements, the government officials of Indonesia, Malaysia and Bangladesh has said officially that it is just propaganda of U.S. against China to get hold of strategically and economically important sea-lane of the region. US wants to control Malacca strait because of its strategic importance rather not because fear of terrorism attacks (Sarker, 2014). Besides US and Japan, China is taking India also as a threat to its energy supply route through Indian Ocean where it could make attack on its supply line. India is a major regional competitor of China and despite having expanded trade relations between India and China, India is working as an ally state with US policies against Beijing (Yee, 2015).

On Road initiative, China is building alternative trade routes to Malacca strait. These alternative trade routes are China-Pakistan economic corridor, Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar corridor (BCIM) and Kra-Isthmus Canal in Thailand (Pant, 2012; Len, 2015; Is China-Pakistan Silk Road a game changer, 2015).



The Kra-Isthmus Canal in Thailand, besides providing an alternative route to Malacca strait, it gives economic advantage to China that it would reduce the shipment costs and time to it by making its route distance shortened to 1000 km than of the strait. China's construction companies are constructing this canal (Yee,

2014). The length of this canal is 102 km long and its width is 400 meters and it is 25 meters deep. Besides economic advantages, this alternative route provides security to trade transaction of China that could be threatened in Strait. China even after building these alternative trade routes, is passing Road initiative through Pacific, Strait of Malacca, and South-East Asia with this hope that soon it will grip this disputed and enmity prone area in global economic interconnectivity project (initiative). It makes efforts to alleviate the South-China Sea regional disputes bitterness with mutual economic interdependence and cooperation. It tries to create a new world of economic influence. Under its New World Economic Order, it tries to replace the existing world order of hegemony and inequality with mutual peace, development, and cooperation which leads towards neoliberalism (yee, 2015).

### **Kyaukpru seaport, Myanmar**



In 2009, China and Myanmar signed an agreement to develop Kyaukpru deep Seaport on Maday Island Myanmar. China has paid the financial support for the construction of this port. Now its construction is completed, and it is operationalized. This port will be connected to Kunming city of China's Yunnan province through the network of roads, rails, and pipelines. The gas and oil pipelines are now functionalized. According to an estimate, in coming years, through these pipelines 12 million tons of crude oil and 12 billion cubic meters' natural gas would be transmitted to China. These pipelines will further be connected to Guizhou and Guangxi province of it (China) that will resultantly increase trade development in inside areas of China.

Under Road Initiative, China is developing and financing various other economic and social projects in Myanmar to boost economic development there. China and Myanmar have pledged to build a high-speed rail link namely "Dali-Ruili" from Kyaukpru deep-sea port to its Kunming city of Yunnan province. The railway link is under construction; some unites it will construct for high-speed run that covers 250 kilometers per hour and some unites covers slow speed run of 180

kilometers per hour. The railway project is connecting the surrounding regional countries in a chain includes India, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia, and Singapore to Kunming China (Astiadi, 2014). China and Myanmar have pledged to go in close cooperation and peace to build an economic corridor known Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor (BCIM) as that connects systemically China's Kunming city, Mandalay Island, Lishio cities of Myanmar, Sylhet and Dhaka (Bangladesh), Manipur, Silchar (Asam, India) to Kolkata seaport, India. The central part of this corridor will nearly be operated. By this corridor, it (China) is bringing regional integrity and peace. The major threatening challenges in way of Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Corridor (BCIM) are ethnic insurgencies and separation movements, terrorism, drug trafficking, spreading diseases like HIV infections, smuggling, human trafficking etc., that can disrupt badly this project. So, these states should build a strong security mechanism to combat such threatening problems (Aneja, 2015). China through the Kyaupru seaport would import crude oil and other trade productions from Africa, Europe, and the Middle East etc. It would supply natural gas from Arakan state of Maday Island that is rich in natural gas reserves. It's investment with time, would be increased more in infrastructural and energy projects. Its exports sector would get more broadness by finding surrounding periphery countries as a market for selling production. The job opportunities and trade would be increased of both the countries. Hence, China is playing a significant liberal and supportive role by developing an economically poor and conflict-prone country of Myanmar. Kyaukpru-Kunming economic corridor would provide a safe alternative trade passage of Malacca strait to China's trade transaction. This would shorten the route distance for China that it passes through the Strait of Malacca to the South-China Sea (Patranobis, 2018; Thar, 2011). Dr. Hu She Sheng, a South Asian scholar who is serving as Director at a research institute "China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations", has expressed his views on peaceful ambitions of China on Road initiative, "China is more and more dependent over sea natural resources, dependent on all oceans. So, need more parts to diversify its energy needs. These Seaports are merely for the economic reasons. These ports are not harmful as these are not the bases. These are just providing facilities for patrolling. In future, these facilities will become modernize and will provide humanitarian assistance for sailors, fresh food, and dinner."<sup>1</sup>

### **Fears and concerns**

US, Japan, and India are worried on growing military and naval power presence of China in a sea along with Road initiative. They consider the China's peaceful development policies, false. They commonly say China's navy patrolling along with sea-lanes of the Road initiative poses a security threat to their sovereignty (Stay alert to major powers meddling in Asia, 2016).

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<sup>1</sup> Dr. Hu She Sheng Interview with Author on 27 May 2014.



China's rise is a major concern for U.S. as it is a second largest growing global economy after the Washington with current economic growth rate of 7 percent. US is worry on its current economic growth rate. Before 1978, China's world trade contribution was 1 percent and at present its contribution has been increased to ten folds. It is becoming the financial international power as it has the largest foreign currency reserves. It is the one of the largest exporters and production manufacturing country. It is playing a central role in the world trade economy. The number of its international labor force is about 800 million that is largest than all other countries. Being having a largest world trade, it has threatening the Western social prosperity by making extensive investments and construction development projects through which it is succumbing the employment opportunities of the western people (China Statistics and Market data, 2015).

To prevent China's peaceful rise, U.S. has proposed the idea of development of "New Silk Road" in 2011 that links Afghanistan with other regions the Central-Asia, Asia, and Asia-pacific lastly with U.S. but not connecting China. This project is mainly for the development of economies of Asia and Afghanistan. Its main purpose is to gain equal share of advantages and to maintain its power balanced in the region with Beijing (New Silk Road, 2015). U.S. is militarizing Asia and Asia-Pacific region by establishing military bases and alliances. It has a military alliance and military partnerships with Japan, Philippines, Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia, Brunei, and Australia etc. It is militarizing these regions to maintain a balance of power and to get equal stakes of advantages with growing economic influence of China particularly after development of Belt and Road Initiative. It is following the same cold war strategy against China's rise that it has been adopted against Russia that was to try to indulge enemy in weapons race and conflicts and brought it to economic collapse. Though China's focus is more on economic and trade development (U.S. should reflect on its own militarization, 2016). China is endorsing neoliberalism by promoting the values of mutual peace, interdependence, and cooperation by establishing interconnectivity among the countries through Belt and Road Initiative. It is promoting cooperation and integration through regional and international organizations includes SCO, ASEAN, SAARC and AIIB etc. In result, it is moving to build a peaceful multi-polar world. It is developing new world order of mutual peace and interdependence. These changes pose fear and threat to U.S. It perceives China rise as a threat to its global hegemonic and power-influential position (Heydarian, 2016).

China and Russia growing close cooperation and partnership in maintenance of peace and security in Asia-pacific and in the Central-Asia is making U.S. worry. China might soon become a member of Eurasian-Union that is mainly established to shift the influence of European-Union in Eurasian and Middle East regions. China and Russia mutually agreed concerns on Syrian issue that also makes U.S. fear because the countries entire growing cooperation is a great development towards building a peaceful world of mutual interdependence (A Sino-Russian alliance to rival Europe, 2015; Russia-China ties benefit both countries, 2016). China's growing strong nationalism, cultural affiliation, and promotion of its

cultural norms of peace and development as soft power threatens U.S. as global hegemonic power. Being as a global super-power, U.S. dislike China's cultural self-likeness. China since after so many centuries yet has not been accepted the western cultural influence over its norms and values. Chinese are being officially allowed to communicate in Chinese language at a domestic and international level rather than in English which is globally accepted international language. Most Chinese people do not know how to speak the English. The English channels are officially banned in China (China Statistics and Market data, 2015; National Export Initiative, 2013).

U.S. is balancing China's growing economic influence in Asia-pacific by replacing Asian-South Pacific Association (ASP) where China is dominant as member with its own established Trans-Pacific Partnership (TTP). ASP is excluding U.S. TTP is excluding China and India. TTP is the largest trade agreement of history between U.S. and the twelve countries of the Pacific. It is tariff-free trade agreement. China is also exerting its influence in the Pacific through establishing bilateral cooperative relations under Road initiative connectivity that might enhance its (China) economic influence but resultantly that poses a great security challenge to US's global power influence and to its world order supremacy. The Pacific region is economically significant for China as this region is one of the fastest growing economic regions that constitute two or three-time economic growth of the global average and it covers the market of 792 million people and makes the total GDP of \$ 28.1 trillion. U.S. through TTP is maintaining its global supremacy in the Pacific region and its economic influence also. The trends of competition and cooperation will exist equally in the region between Beijing and the Washington that will push China for making more efforts to create a peaceful and developing world for its peaceful rise (Powers, 2015, Feldman-Piltch, 2015). In 2017, U.S. has pulled-out TTP because of labor and manufacturing losses. It has left place for China to appear as a great regional trade power. Now the possibility lies that China could join this trade partnership. In near future, it seems U.S. unlikely include China to participate in regional trade (Edwards, 2017).

India's policy makers, analyst, and scholars considers China Road initiative connectivity in Asia as threat for its sovereignty as on basis of sharing border dispute with China in m nb hArunachala Pradesh, history of 1962 war, and most importantly current growing Beijing regional influence in Delhi surrounding periphery states. It says China is encircling India and curtailing its capability of making a second strike in case of any foreign attack by building seaports in Indian Ocean. India as being an old regional power of Asia, considers China as a threat to its regional economic and political influence over the Asian periphery includes Bangladesh, Sri-Lanka, Maldives, Nepal, Malaysia etc., (India's fear of encirclement, 2016). On one side, it plays a role of regional ally of U.S. against China (Joshi, 2015). India is provoking its surrounding countries that China's rise posing a threat to their sovereignty also (Soysa, 2015). In spite these fears, India is agreed to become a part of China's Road initiative. It has officially settled with Beijing to connect Kolkata seaport with Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar economic corridor. India keeps a dual policy towards China that is consisted of

cooperation and competition (India, China Ink 12 pacts, 2014). It has extensive economic cooperation as bilateral trade volume of both has reached to \$ 70 billion dollars in 2014 that has set to increase \$ 100 billion dollars by 2015. Both are agreed to solve the border dispute through negotiation (Closer China-Indian ties a blessing for region, 2015). India became a permanent member of SCO in June 2017 (It is a historic day, 2017). Dr. Masters Dan, Assistant professor at University of North Carolina Wilmington, U.S., said on China's peaceful rise "China is a dominant trade power in Asia, South Asia and South East Asia, at the same time there are parallel security concerns. U.S. is taking a lead right now to reposition our foreign policy assets refer as pivot. This is obvious response to increasing China's presence, its increasing weight, and gravity in the area. U.S. don't China to feel that it is going to have access or to be treated in South and Southeast Asia as their exclusive zone of interest, that this zone of interest is open to many countries and at the same time we want to make sure that U.S. has its interests secured."<sup>2</sup>

### **China towards peaceful development**

China considers Asia as an important region as it is one of the largest continents by area and population of the world where it could obtain extensive trade and energy interests. This area covers 67 percent world's population and rich in natural resources of crude-oil, uranium, iron, coal etc. It (China) speedily connects this region on Road initiative. This region (Asia) plays crucial role in its (China) economic rise as provides it safe trade routes connectivity to other regions and sea-access to its land-locked backward areas, vast investment opportunities, and energy resources that are required for its industrial development (Chen, 2014). China considers Asia security essential for the smooth function of Road initiative. As Xi Jinping has said on Asia security that Asia constitutes one-third economy of the world. The world development and peace lie in the peace and stability of Asia (Jinping, 2014: 390).

China, in response to growing militarization in Asia, is enhancing its cooperation with the countries particularly through Road initiative connectivity. It provides financial support to these countries in construction of infrastructure of seaports, corridors, oil and gas pipelines, roads, and energy projects (Vision and Actions, 2015). Regarding that, it has established Asian Infrastructure Investment bank (AIIB) that provides financial support to countries for development infrastructure and other energy projects. The bank runs on mutual funds of participant countries of Maritime Silk Road. It provides financial assistance to developing countries for building more economic and social development without using discriminatory and influencing policies of the Western Institutions includes the World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF). AIIB does work as an alternative of the western financial institutions that through promoting development to countries establishing new zones of power of periphery south (Trenin, 2015;

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<sup>2</sup> Dr. Masters Dan interview with the author on March 14th, 2015.

AIIB to make substantial contribution, 2016). All close European allies of U.S. has joined the membership of this bank includes U.K., Germany, Poland etc., but U.S. and Japan are not still joined this bank (AIIB offers new channels for Global finance, 2016). Conversely to West, China is also shifting its technological development to these developing countries on basis of mutual gains and cooperation policy. It is locating peaceful and safe means for making its rise successful (Vision and Actions, 2015). On Road connectivity, China is promoting neoliberalism as it (China) is closely integrating the regional and international organizations in cooperation includes ASEAN, BRICS, Asia-pacific economic cooperation (APEC), G-20. Resultantly, it is increasing interdependence in between organizations and states that leads to build a peaceful world. The growing integration and interdependence among the countries demolishing differences lies in between nationalities, ethnic groups, religions, and cultures. The increasing connectivity is originating new cultures of peace and tolerance. Moreover, for peace development, Beijing is building close cooperative relations with these above-mentioned organizations particularly with ASEAN to gain support and cooperation of these countries to solve South-China Sea dispute (Zhida, 2015; AIIB offers new channels for Global finance, 2016). Moreover, it is increasing mutual integration and interdependence among countries, organizations, and individuals by promoting mutual peace, cooperation, and development to them throughout Road that resultantly bringing a New World Order of mutual peace and cooperation. It considers the existing World Order of power-influence and hegemony as a threat to its rise and development. It makes efforts to establish the world more globalized and economically interconnected. Beijing is setting new patterns of peaceful relations among the countries that in result building a world of harmony (Vision and Actions, 2015; Trenin, 2015). Dr. Maqsudal Hasan Noori who is currently serving as an Assistant professor at International Relations department at COMSATS Institute of Information Technology, Islamabad has said on China's peaceful rise, "China rise is peaceful, and it is to attain economic purposes. Rise is not going to threaten anybody. As in history, nations which economically rose like Germany, Japan they were always threatening, and they had alarming ambitions like westerns, Americans and Europeans were. Though China always qualifies when it says it as peaceful and they often use the word "peaceful development" because they don't want to make people feared. So, it always uses the word peaceful rise."<sup>3</sup>

China has developed an energy security policy on Road initiative as it has fears that it trades transaction could be attacked or the transaction ways could be obstructed by U.S., India and Japan at the Strait of Malacca and the Indian Ocean. Under Security policy, it is building economic corridors that works as an alternative trade routes of Malacca strait and Indian Ocean and provides safety to its trade transaction. It is deploying naval bases to secure the seaports infrastructure and

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<sup>3</sup> Dr. Maqsudal Hasan Noori Interview with Author on March 9th, 2015.

seaports connectivity from foreign attacks and to provide refurbishment facilities (Full text: China's Military Strategy, 2015).

### **Conclusion**

China is non-align, anti-imperialist and anti-hegemonic country. It is making small and developing countries of Asia includes Singapore, Myanmar, Bangladesh etc., as new zones of economic power that reduces gap between South and North. On Road Initiative, it provides them access to the global markets that boost their economic and social development and in result making their security strengthens. It is by constructing pipelines and economic corridors in these countries providing equal opportunities to export their trade commodities and natural resources to other countries. It is alleviating economic and social challenges in these countries.

To secure its trade transaction, it has established alternative trade passages to Strait of Malacca as like Kra-Isthmus canal in Thailand, Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar economic corridor and China-Pakistan economic corridor. Through these passages, it is promoting development and integration to these countries. It is making the new world order of peace and interdependence that shifts existing world order of hegemony and power-influence towards neoliberalism.

It loves to live with peace and harmony. At present, it is a developing country and currently its preference to settle-down its own social issues first like poverty, unemployment, Separation movements etc. Therefore, currently, it is difficult for it to get involve in war or conflict. In long run, when it may become a global economic power, it will not indulge in wars at expense of its own availed social peace and development. It may never derail the Road initiative at expense of the rest of world peace, its own peace and its own efforts and money that it has made and spent for the establishment of this initiative.

Though the country's economic interdependence is increasing its political influence. But it would always avoid going for a war or conflict as its rise is based on idea of mutual integration and interdependence that makes its and other countries security common particularly on Road Initiative. The concept of common security stops U.S. and others from making any severe conflict on China and on any other country that associated in any form with Road Initiative.

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