

Shahida Wizarat

CHINA AS A SUPERPOWER: A VIEW FROM PAKISTAN

Abstract. The International World Order established from the 20th century to present times is cruel, unjust and cannibalistic, leading to death and destruction in the Third World, now called the Global South, bringing prosperity to rich countries through sale of armaments. This world order got worse with the advent of 9/11 labelling genuine freedom movements as terrorism, forced occupation of lands and of natural resources by rich countries under “altruistic” motives, denying development to the Global South countries, borrowings from the International Financial Institutions resulting in declining growth rates, massive unemployment, worsening income distribution and poverty. In the midst of this dismal picture we are witnessing the rise of China as a mighty economic and strategic power. Its rate of growth of almost 10 percent for three decades has helped in the rapid development of the country, pulling almost one billion people out of poverty in the shortest period of time. China’s BRI which is a development project to provide infrastructure to Third World countries, has been met with the most ferocious reaction by western countries. In-fact, it is at the bottom of the present standoff between Pakistan and India. In the Pakistan-India conflict Pakistan has used Chinese and Pakistani fighter jets and missiles. In today’s turbulent world when countries are faced with big bullies going around claiming lands and resources that do not belong to them, creating insecurities and vulnerabilities, a huge market for Chinese and Pakistani fighter jets and missiles has been created. This will not only increase economic prosperity, giving strategic strength, but also expedite the rise of China as a super power.

Keywords: International Economic Order; China; Pakistan; India; Pahalgam; Superpower.

Author: Shahida Wizarat, Ph.D. (Economics), Professor, College of Economics and Social Development (CESD), Institute of Business Management (IoBM) (address: IoBM, Korangi Creek, Karachi City, Sindh 75190, Pakistan); M.A. Economics, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee, U.S.A; PhD Economics, University of East Anglia, Norwich, England, U.K.; E-mail: drshahidawizarat@gmail.com

Conflict of interests. The author declares the absence of conflict of interests.

For citation: Wizarat S. (2025). China as Superpower: a view from Pakistan, *Kitaj v mirovoj i regional'noj politike. Istoriya i sovremennost' [China in World and Regional Politics. History and Modernity]*, 30(30): 143–151. DOI: 10.48647/ICCA.2025.27.53.009.

III. Уизарат

Китай как сверхдержава: взгляд из Пакистана

Аннотация. Международный мировой порядок, установленный с XX в. по настоящее время, является жестоким, несправедливым и людоедским, приводящим к смерти и разрушениям в Третьем мире, ныне называемым Глобальным Югом, принося процветание богатым странам за счет продажи оружия. Этот миропорядок еще более ужесточился в связи с событиями 11 сентября, когда подлинные движения за свободу были названы терроризмом, вошли в практику насильственная оккупация земель и природных ресурсов богатыми странами под «альтруистическими» лозунгами, отказ в развитии странам Глобального Юга, заимствования у международных финансовых институтов, приводящие к снижению темпов роста, массовой безработице, несправедливому распределению доходов и бедности. Посреди этой мрачной картины мы наблюдаем подъем Китая как могущественной экономической и стратегической державы. Его темпы роста почти в 10 % за три десятилетия обеспечили быстрое развитие страны, вытащив почти миллиард человек из нищеты в кратчайшие сроки. Китайская Инициатива «Пояс и путь», которая является проектом развития, нацеленного на создание инфраструктуры для стран Глобального Юга, была гневно встречена западными странами. Фактически, ИПП является источником нынешнего противостояния между Пакистаном и Индией. В пакистано-индийском конфликте Пакистан использовал китайские и пакистанские истребители и ракеты. В сегодняшнем беспокойном мире, когда страны сталкиваются с большими бесчинствами со стороны акторов, претендующих на земли и ресурсы, которые им не принадлежат, и создающих обстановку неуверенности и уязвимости, был создан огромный рынок для китай-

ских и пакистанских истребителей и ракет. Это не только увеличит экономическое процветание, придав ему стратегическую силу, но и ускорит подъем Китая как сверхдержавы.

Ключевые слова: международный экономический порядок; Китай; Пакистан; Индия; Пахалгам; сверхдержава.

Автор: Шаида УИЗАРАТ, доктор философии (экономика) (Ph.D. (Ec.), декан Колледжа экономики и социального развития Института управления бизнесом (Карачи, Пакистан) (адрес: Creek, Karachi, Karachi City, Sindh 75190, Pakistan); магистр экономики (MA (Economics), Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee, U.S.A; доктор философии (экономика) (Ph.D (Economics), University of East Anglia, Norwich, England, U.K. E-mail: drshahidawizarat@gmail.com

Конфликт интересов. Автор заявляет об отсутствии конфликта интересов.

Для цитирования: Уизарат Ш. Китай как сверхдержава: взгляд из Пакистана // Китай в мировой и региональной политике. История и современность. 2025. Вып. 30. № 30. С. 143—151 (на англ. яз.). DOI: 10.48647/ISSA.2025.27.53.009.

1. Introduction

The papers starts with a brief introduction in section 1, followed by an overview of the International Economic and Political Order established by western powers in the 20th century and continuing to present times in section 2. The deterioration in the world order in the aftermath of 9/11 is also discussed in this section. The economic and strategic rise of China from being the “sick man” of Asia to a formidable economic and strategic power is summarily presented in section 3. While the recent happenings in the sub-continent and their impact on expediting the rise of China as a super power are presented in section 4. I argue that the rise of China will contribute towards making the International World Order more humane and ethical. The paper is concluded in section 5.

2. Present World Order

In 1917 during the First World War the British Government issued the Balfour Declaration that led to the establishment of the state of Israel on Palestinian land. In the aftermath of the Second World War the colonial powers were forced to quit and grant independence to the colonies, resulting in the birth of a large number of countries in Asia, Africa, the Middle East, the Caribbean, etc. While the right of self-determination was exercised by a

large number of countries, conflicts were created by the former colonial powers that would ensure continuous increase in the GDP of rich armament producing countries. In 1947 people living in the sub-continent exercised their right to self-determination, but the people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh could not exercise their right, guaranteed to them by the Security Council Resolutions 91 of 1951 and 122 of 1957 and Article 42 of the Hague Regulations 1907 [Wizarat S., 2019].

On the economic front a large number of countries that have borrowed heavily from the International Financial Institutions have piled up unsustainable debts, raising fears of defaults. The pursuit of development through borrowings from the International Financial Institutions by developing countries has brought down their growth rates, caused deindustrialization, massive unemployment, increase in poverty, worsening the distribution of income, depriving the citizens of their basic needs like health and education. These resulting in social crises, revealed by increase in crimes, political destabilization and conflicts. [Wizarat, S., 2000, 2001, 2022].

While the political order handed down in the aftermath of the First and the Second World Wars was very unjust and cruel, it has deteriorated considerably with the onset of 9/11 and the emerging unipolar world. This World Order dubs all legitimate struggles as terrorism — to be dealt with an iron hand. The deteriorating world order can be gauged by Donald Trump's desire to buy Greenland, which the former Prime Minister of Greenland Aleqa Hammond rightly stated was "arrogant and disgusting" [Milne, R., 2019]. It is also reflected by Trump's statement of annexing Canada to the United States and using pressure tactics to sign a mineral agreement with Ukraine.

The crude and feudal way of conducting international affairs is followed by settlers from Israel and India in Palestina and Kashmir. India has launched a 76 billion USD project in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh seeking to combine the strategic interests of USA, UK, India and Israel with the economic interests of Arab countries. But none of these acts have moved world conscience.

3. The Economic and Strategic Rise of China

It is against the backdrop of a deteriorating world order that we are witnessing the economic and strategic rise of China. The spectacular rise of China attributed to pragmatic policies, dynamic leadership, good governance, heavy investment in R&D and state of the art technology.

Chinese economy grew by almost ten percent for nearly three decades, lifting almost a billion people out of poverty in the shortest period of time [Javed, H., 2020]. Chinese GDP at USD 15.4 trillion in 2020 was about 17 % of global GDP [Wizarat, S., 2023]. These results were achieved through ‘forever reforms, forever innovation, forever development’ leading to the establishment of ‘forever peace’ and ‘forever prosperity’ [Javed, H., 2024].

The rich cultural heritage of the Chinese society draws from the teachings of great philosophers and leaders like Tzu, Lao, Sun Yatsen, Buddha, Chairman Mao Zedong, Deng Xiao Peng and President Xi Jinping. These teachings have affected Chinese culture through inculcating a sense of contentment, discipline, punctuality, diligence and perseverance. It is interesting to note that during the 8000 years of recorded history, China has never colonized other countries, even during the sixth to the fifteenth centuries when the Chinese nation was militarily very powerful under the Tang, Yuan and Ming dynasties. In-fact this brings their culture in sharp contrast with the present world order which thrives on loot and plunder, using brute force to subjugate people who do not have the military might to defend themselves.

In 2013 China embarked on the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) with a view to construct a unified large market, promote cultural exchanges and economic integration between 142 member nations, increasing growth rates of both investing and host countries. Through building infrastructure the BRI has tried to increase economic growth in Asia, Africa, Central and Eastern Europe and Asia Pacific. That is why the BRI is called a “win-win” model, for it tries to increase growth of both the investing and the borrowing country.

This is in marked contrast to the present International Economic Order, which entails decline in economic activity in rich countries as a result of the capitalist crisis, causing conflicts in the developing world. While this increases the demand for armaments, increasing the gross domestic product of armament producing countries, it results in decline in economic activity, death and destruction in the Third World. Although the BRI is a development project, whose major objective is to increase growth in both the investing and the host country, it has great potential to change the present world order. As per the perception of rich countries, this will change the balance of economic power to the benefit of Third World countries. That is why, while the industrialization threat from Third World countries in the 1960s and 1970s was met by academic and intellectual opposition, the BRI is facing a far more belligerent response from the west and its protégés [Wizarat, S., 2021].

4. Recent Economic and Strategic Developments

In April 2025 soon after coming to power US President Donald Trump imposed 145 % duty on Chinese imports to the US with the objective of narrowing US trade deficit with China. Reciprocating China imposed duty of 125 % on US imports to China. This trade war led to the crash of stock exchanges and stoked fears of a recession, as a result of interventions by a country that is the bastion of the free market. But meeting in mid May 2025 in Geneva the US and China agreed to a deal to cut tariffs to restore stability to the financial markets and ease the creeping slump. According to the deal the US would cut the tariff it imposed on Chinese imports from 145 % to 30 percent, while China would reduce the tariffs imposed on US imports from 125 % to 10 %. The trade dispute that threatened trade to the tune of \$600 billion, disrupting the supply chains, stagflation and layoffs has been avoided.

And coming now to the sub-continent where an attack on tourists in Pehalgam, Occupied Kashmir in April 2025 took place in which 26 tourists lost their lives. An FIR was registered immediately and Pakistan blamed following the visit of US Vice President Vance. Pakistan denied the accusation and took the matter to the UN Security Council and demanded an international investigation. This was followed by the US Secretary of State and National Security Adviser urging both Pakistan and India to cooperate with India's investigation. Both the US and India were not interested in the investigation, indicating that it might have been a False Flag Operation.

The US Secretary of State gave a strong statement supporting Indian stance on the issue, with a view to push India and Pakistan to war. According to analysts, the major US objective was not just to provoke war between Pakistan and India, but to use warfare to relocate global manufacturing from China to India, resulting from the trade war between China and the US discussed earlier. This relocation depended on India's ability to take on Pakistan, China's closest strategic ally. But the very successful use of China and Pakistan-produced aircrafts and missiles helped Pakistan Air Force to achieve major objectives preventing conflict escalation within a short span of less than four hours on 10 May 2025. They also provided China with its "DeepSeek" moment i.e. "a dramatic, undeniable demonstration of capabilities" [EndGame Compass, video] which will have a very powerful impact globally.

In today's turbulent world when countries across Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Latin America, etc., are faced with territorial claims and disputes, Chinese and Pakistani fighter jets and missiles can help to protect

these countries at a price just 40 % of the price of western technology. And the expensive western technology failing at the battle field, as revealed by the downing of Rafael fighter jets and the grounding of the entire Indian Air Force as a result. Moreover, western technology has many strings attached, which is not the case with Chinese technology. Therefore, a large number of countries can turn to China and Pakistan for the supply of war tested technologies at a fraction of the price. Already there are reports of Bangladesh placing orders for J10-C and Malaysia withdrawing the \$ 8.1billion order for Rafafs. Pakistan could contribute by Pakistan Air Force providing flight training to Bangladesh Air Force. The very successful testing of Chinese and Pakistani aircrafts and missiles in the battle field leading to expansion in demand will be the end of western block supremacy and hastening the rise of China as a super power.

Moreover, China and Pakistan's close strategic ties are being expanded to include Bangladesh. Defense cooperation between China, Pakistan and Bangladesh should focus on evolving a joint strategy for resolving their disputes with India. This will bring peace to the Akesai qin (Aksai Chin) region with positive fallout on water disputes as well. The Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh dispute between Pakistan and India also needs immediate attention. This will put an end to Indian threats of stopping the flow of rivers to Pakistan. The Teesta River dispute between Bangladesh and India can be addressed through resolving the Chicken Neck issue, which would release the Seven Sisters States, including Zang Nan (Arunchal Pradesh) over which China has a claim. Defense cooperation could be extended to include Turkiye, Azarbaijan, Yemen and the Islamic Republic of Iran. This will go a long way towards boosting the security and economic wellbeing of countries facing similar security threats.

The rise of China as an economic and strategic power will reinforce the rise of China as a super power, and the rise of China as a super power will reinforce the rise of China as an economic and strategic power. The Confucius Principles of "caring and sharing", honesty and respect for the territorial rights of other countries would be the guiding principles. History is replete with instances of super powers of yester centuries like the Netherlands, Britain and presently US using their superpower status to loot and plunder resources and occupy lands that do not belong to them. And waging wars under altruistic stated concerns to occupy fuel and mineral resources of Third World countries. And now waging wars and killing populations to vacate scenic surroundings to build tourist resorts. Why would China be any different? China's unusual history of the last 8000 years reveals that China did not colonize any country, even when it was very

powerful as under the Tang, Yuan and the Ming dynasties. This convinces me that the New World Order will be more ethical and humane when it is formulated and implemented by China.

5. Conclusion

The International World Order established from the 20th century to present times is cruel, unjust and cannibalistic. Rich countries which are former colonial powers are creating intractable conflicts to keep dipping in, to smooth out the booms and busts of the business cycle. This leading to death and destruction in the Third World bringing prosperity to rich countries, through sale of armaments resulting in increase in their GDPs.

This world order got worse with the advent of 9/11 when genuine freedom movements started getting dubbed as terrorism. This deterioration manifesting itself in the forced occupation of lands, orchards and houses by Indian and Israeli settlers, strangulating to death of young Palestinian children by hefty armed forces personnel, blinding Kashmiri children through pellet guns. The deteriorating world order manifesting itself through occupying natural resources by rich countries under altruistic motives and denying Third World countries development. And borrowing from the International Financial Institutions resulting in declining growth rates, massive unemployment, worsening income distribution and poverty.

In the midst of this dismal scenario we find the rise of China as a mighty economic and strategic power. Its rate of growth of almost 10 percent for three decades has helped in the rapid development of the country, pulling almost one billion people out of poverty in the shortest period of time. This along with innovations, technological change, 5G and AI technologies has presented China with its “DeepSeek” moment. But all this creating uneasiness and discomfort in the western world and India. China’s BRI which is a development project to provide infrastructure to Third World countries, has been met with the most ferocious reaction by western countries and India. In-fact, it is at the bottom of the present standoff between Pakistan and India. Rich countries see it as changing the balance of economic power to the benefit of Third World countries. In the present standoff between Pakistan and India, Pakistan used Chinese and Pakistani fighter jets and missiles. In today’s turbulent world when countries are faced with big bullies going around claiming lands and resources that do not belong to them, creating insecurities and vulnerabilities, a huge market for Chinese and Pakistani fighter jets and missiles has been created. This will end western economic, political and strategic supremacy and expedite the rise of China as a super power!

Библиографический список [References]

- EndGame Compass, video
- Javed, Hasan (2024). China as No. 1 (ed. Yang Zhong and Ronald F. Inglehart), *Ann Arbor, University of Michigan Press*.
- Javed, Hasan (2020). China's Model of Development: Lessons for Pakistan, *Karachi, New Fakhri Printing*.
- Milne, Richard (2019). Greenlanders Reject Sale to US but Urge Investments, *Financial Times*, 24—25 August.
- Wizarat, Shahida (2022). Alternative to the IMF and Other Out of the Box Solutions, December, *Singapore, Partridge Publishing*.
- Wizarat, Shahida (2001, April). An Alternative External Debt Management Strategy, *Pakistan Business Review*: 3: 1.
- Wizarat, Shahida (2021). Challenges to Belt and Road Initiative, *China in World and Regional Politics: History and Modernity, annual publication, Fall 2021, Moscow, Institute of Far Eastern Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences*.
- Wizarat, Shahida (2000, October). Paying Debt Through Loot, *Pakistan Business Review*: 2: 3.
- Wizarat, Shahida (2019, October), Resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir Conflict — the Way Forward, *Islamabad, Consul*.
- Wizarat, Shahida (2023). The Rise of China in the XXIst Century: Domestic and Global Levels, *China in World and Regional Politics: History and Modernity, annual publication, Fall 2023, Moscow, Institute of China and Contemporary Asia (former Institute of Far Eastern Studies), Russian Academy of Sciences*.

Поступила в редакцию: 15.05.2025
Принята к публикации: 30.06.2025

Received: May 15, 2025
Accepted: Jun 30, 2025