



CONFERENCE REPORT

One-Day Conference on: "Understanding China's Governance System & Development Model"



Jointly Organized By:

School of Politics and International Relations,
Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, and
Pakistan Research Center for a Community
with Shared Future (PRCCSF)



In Collaboration with:

The Embassy of the People's Republic of
China Islamabad.



Date: On 23rd May 2023

Venue:

SPIR, University Rd, Islamabad, Pakistan

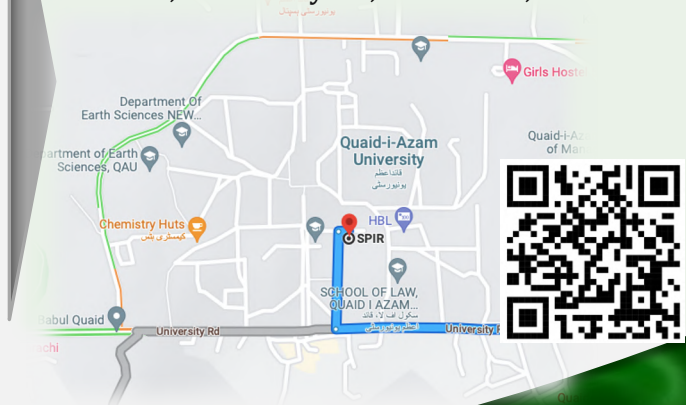




Table of Contents

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE	3
PROGRAM REMARKS:	4
TOPIC PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION	5
▪ <i>China in Contemporary Global World Order and Dividends for Pakistan</i>	
▪ <i>Center for Community with a Shared Future</i>	
▪ <i>President Xi Jinping Concept of Dialogue among Civilizations' & Community with Shared Future</i>	
▪ <i>China Global Development Initiative and the way forward for the International Community</i>	
▪ <i>Cultural Cooperation as a Tool for Soft Power Projection: A Case Study of China & Pakistan</i>	
▪ <i>BRI's Economic Connectivity Among the Partner Countries</i>	
▪ <i>Role of Media in BRI's Connectivity</i>	



ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

To integrate national and international intellectuals and scholars to discuss the Chinese governance model, reforms, advanced developments, concept of Community with a Shared future, dialogue of civilizations, and socio-economic transformation under BRI/CPEC.

The rise of China as a major political, economic, and security player in the global landscape keeps on gaining the interest of the international community in its governance system and adopted strategies. China's inclusive political and economic institutions have gained a high place globally due to a unique governance system. Under the visionary leadership of President Xi Jinping, China is now striving towards a new goal of rejuvenating the nation while strengthening „Socialism with Chinese Characteristics“.

In this regard, the Communist Party of China (CPC), formed in 1921, can aptly be considered as a true model of excellence for the last hundred years. These hundred years have been a period of dramatic change – enormous productive forces unleashed, social transformation unprecedented in scale, and huge advances in human civilization. President Xi, being a core of the CPC, has succeeded in devising the right policies based on an accurate analysis of domestic and international developments. President Xi has been playing a proactive role and his successful conduct of statecraft and grand narratives to integrate countries have made him the most popular leader in the world.

After the launch of the Belt & Road Initiative (BRI), China has become one of the popular destinations for international students, researchers, and experts for learning and higher education studies. The constantly increasing global outreach of China has developed a keen interest among people to learn all aspects of China's transformation. Thereby, these workshops will provide a great opportunity for national/international scholars to learn about China, the concept of community with a shared future for mankind, and also enhance people-to-people contacts through meaningful engagement within the wider academic network.

This is:

- To understand evolving China in the modern world.
- To establish meaningful engagements through interactive discussion with national or international teachers, intellectuals, and experts.
- To discuss robust policies presented by President Xi Jinping and promote his grand concepts, i.e., Community with a Shared Future or Dialogue among Civilizations.
- To familiarize the academicians, students, and scholars with the socio-economic and political developments of China as a role model.
- To remove misconceptions about the Belt & Road Initiative (BRI)



PROGRAM REMARKS:

Welcome Remarks:

Dr. Zafar Nawaz Jaspal

Professor and Director, School of Politics and International Relations, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad



Opening Remarks:

Mr. Khalid Taimur Akram,

Executive Director, Pakistan Research Center for a Community with Shared Future (PRCCSF), Islamabad



Welcome Remarks:

Professor Li Huailiang,

Dean of the Institute for a Community with Shared Future, Communication University of China (CUC), Beijing, China





TOPIC PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION

Topic: China in Contemporary Global World Order and Dividends for Pakistan

Dr. Zafar Nawaz Jaspal

Professor and Director, School of Politics and International Relations, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad

Prof. Dr. Zafar Nawaz Jaspal said, "Let me start by looking at China in this emerging politics. China competed with the superpower and became the preeminent power. President Biden, in his five National Security documents, especially the 2022 National Defense Strategies of the United States of America, made a very interesting statement on October 27, 2022. It reflected the characteristics of the modern world. He stated that we lived in a decisive decade, marked by dramatic changes in geopolitics, technology, economics, and our environment. These four



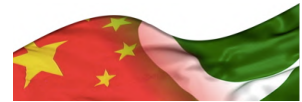
areas defined the global order.

When we saw the way the President saw the counterpart, we found that they were more focused on geo-economics to pursue geopolitical objectives rather than the technology domain. Back in 2009 or 2010, when I

was at The International Four, Chinese participants used to say they were 20 years behind. But according to American estimates, they shared the same podium in the technology domain. In economics, of course, everyone was aware, and the environment was also important.



The complexity of that decade was due to the fact that the United States and China were locked in an escalating geopolitical competition but were deeply economically intertwined. This paradox in history created immense competition on one side and



immense economic cooperation on the other.

The first hypothesis for our discourse could be that global geopolitics was at the crossroads due to the back-and-forth competition between China and the US, which could be called "Pax Americana" versus "Pax in Asia." Just as we heard about Pax America in the last century, American values and American dominance, the same thing was happening in Asia with China. When we looked at the words "destiny," "future," "world," "Silk Road," "belt," and "road," we saw two competing thoughts in global politics.



The realpolitik of great powers encouraged the formation of global and regional alliances, despite immense economic interdependence and people-to-people connectivity through information technologies. In the literature

of international politics, realists were seen publicizing balancing and rebalancing

European, African, and Asian nations. It had bilateral, regional, and international



strategies of great powers, having the characteristics of a geostatic contest. On the other hand, liberals were puzzled over the sanctity of global institutions, regardless of economic health and environmental dependency. An example of this confusion was seen in the 2020 G20 conference, where United Nations Security Council resolutions were violated by India, but the American-led world endorsed it, except for China, Saudi Arabia, and a few other countries. This puzzled liberals and questioned the sanctity of international institutions.

China entered this world, and the world unfolded. The President's vision in 2013 introduced the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), establishing an intercontinental infrastructure network among

economic connectivity implications. On May 15, 2017, China's President Xi highlighted the BRI's aim, emphasizing the need for win-win results through greater openness and cooperation, refraining from setting unattainable thresholds for cooperation or pursuing exclusive arrangements, and rejecting protectionism.



In terms of ideology or nationalistic contest, American literature portrayed China as communist, but they did not talk about protectionism or



cooperation. They focused more on narratives. China had its own blended way of the international political economic order, which was the hallmark of the capitalist and democratic world, but it seemed to be missing to some



extent. The calmest world was looking for it.

When we focused on the outcomes, we found that the connectivity aimed to revive the Asian trading routes and create a communication pivot through projects like pipelines, ports, railways, and other major infrastructure projects. Euro-Asia, West Asia, South Asia, and Central Asia were interlinked, and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was pivotal in this communication network.

There were challenges in international politics, and for the past five years, the trends

were characterized by the intensification of geopolitics. States and societies moved towards more aggressive foreign policies, as evidenced by the actions of major powers like Russia, China, the United States, as well as regional powers like India. One word summed it up: a new Cold War.

China also faced challenges in the form of the United States' efforts to contain it, strategic competition in the Middle East between Saudi Arabia and Iran, India-China border conflicts, U.S. sanctions against Iran, China's assertive strategy in the South China Sea, and the challenge of the Malacca Strait. Additionally, there was the rise of the Quad, which was seen as an Asian NATO.

China realized that the United States was struggling to contain it. The strategic competition between China and India, China's strategic

partnership with Pakistan, and the strategic competition in the Indian Ocean were all significant factors. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) introduced a variable of change in the current global geopolitical order, compromising the three-decade global hegemony of the United States.

Pakistan, being a pivot in the Central Asia, West Asia, and South Asia region, had the opportunity to benefit from the BRI and CPEC projects. However, there were challenges that needed to be addressed, including intellectual, academic, financial, professional, and security aspects. The stability of these key factors would determine whether Pakistan could fully reap the benefits and opportunities presented."





Key Takeaway:

- US-China Paradox: The US and China are in a complex relationship characterized by intense competition and economic interdependence.
- Belt and Road Initiative (BRI): China's BRI aims to connect nations through infrastructure networks, fostering economic connectivity on a global scale.
- China-Pakistan Relations: Geopolitical changes in South Asia, such as border conflicts and the US withdrawal from Afghanistan, have influenced China-Pakistan relations. Pakistan benefits from its strategic partnership with China and involvement in the CPEC.
- Geopolitical-Economic Interdependence: Global geopolitics is driving both economic interdependence and strategic competition. Pakistan has opportunities but needs intellectual, academic, financial, professional, and security preparedness to leverage them.



Topic: Center for Community with a Shared Future

Mr. Khalid Taimur Akram

Executive Director, Pakistan Research Centre for a Community with Shared Future (PRCCSF), Islamabad

Khalid Taimur said, "Today, I would like to introduce you to the Center for Community with a Shared Future. This center, which was established in October 2020, was part of a larger network headed by China Communication University in Beijing. These centers were established not only in Pakistan but also in numerous countries across Africa, Europe, the Middle East, Central Asia, and South Asia."



"Our Pakistan Research Center for Community with a Shared Future took great pride in being recognized as the best center in 2021 and 2022 among all the centers established worldwide."

He explained, "Our primary goal was to connect people and students from various universities in Pakistan with universities in China and other Belt and Road countries.

While China's Belt and Road program focused on infrastructure, our center focused on fostering connectivity through the concept of a community with a shared future, as proposed by President Xi Jinping."

"In addition to the community with a shared future project, we also worked on global development initiatives, global security initiatives, and



global civilization initiatives. Our aim was to dispel misconceptions surrounding the Belt and Road program, which some Western media outlets claimed was an attempt by China to colonize



the world. We wanted to provide a direct lens through which you could understand China, rather than relying on Western news agencies."

He further stated, "Our community with a shared future concept aimed to establish strong linkages not only with China but also with other Belt and Road countries. We wanted to promote direct knowledge exchange and understanding. Currently, Punjab University is part of our community of shared future project, and we have conducted international and national conferences on this concept."

Khalid Taimur emphasized "This initiative primarily focused on students and the new generation, as they were crucial in fostering understanding and nurturing relationships between countries. Through the initiative, we aimed to connect Pakistan with Central Asian countries and other regional countries, fostering a broader and more accurate



understanding of Pakistan's role in the world."

He announced, "Today, we had three speakers from China Communication University joining us online, and we hoped to bring them

to Pakistan in the near future.



This would provide an opportunity for you to hear directly from them. As a gesture of our new relationship with the School of Politics and International Relations, I would like to present two copies of books

written by President Xi Jinping on the governance of China. These books, written by President Xi himself, offered valuable insights into China's governance system."



Topic: President Xi Jinping Concept of Dialogue among Civilizations' & Community with Shared Future

Dr. Dou Yulei (Online)

Associate Professor, School of Economics and Management, Communication University of China (CUC), Beijing, China

Dr. Dou Yulei highlighted the challenges faced by the world today, including the pandemic, global divide, and geopolitical tensions. He emphasized the need for people from different civilizations to work together and build a community with a shared future. The concept was first proposed by President Xi Jinping in 2015 and emphasizes the

promote shared development, and contribute to world peace and international order. China has demonstrated its commitment to the global public good by providing over two billion doses of vaccines to more than 80 countries,



adopted into official United Nations documents. It has also been supported by various international organizations, as seen in initiatives such as the Qingdao Declaration of the Council of Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the Beijing Action Plan of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation.



interconnectedness and common destiny of all inhabitants of the global village.

China has embraced the concept and aims to address global challenges collectively,

contributing significantly to narrowing the immunization gap.

The concept of a community with a shared future has gained international recognition and has been



Dr. Dou Yulei also discussed the shift in recent years



towards recognizing the importance of inter-civilizational dialogue for global peace and prosperity. He challenged Samuel Huntington's clash of civilizations thesis, which suggested that conflicts between Western and non-

Western civilizations would shape world politics.

President Xi Jinping has emphasized the need for equality, mutual learning, and interaction among civilizations. He has called for the promotion of exchange and mutual learning among

nations to strengthen popular support for building a community with a shared future. The dialogue of civilizations in Asia has made significant advancements, fostering respect for diversity, appreciation of cultural beauty, openness, and inclusive growth.

Dr. Dou Yulei introduced the global civilizations initiative proposed by General Secretary Xi Jinping. This initiative seeks to integrate national development with global modernization, uphold international fairness and justice, and promote world peace and stability. Key aspects of the initiative include:

- **Respecting Diversity:** The initiative emphasizes the importance of respecting the diversity of civilizations, recognizing their unique contributions, and appreciating cultural heritage.
- **Common Values of Humanity:** It advocates for the promotion of common values that unite humanity, fostering mutual understanding, and enhancing cooperation.
- **Inheritance and Innovation:** The initiative values the inheritance and innovation of civilizations, encouraging cultural exchange and creativity.
- **People-to-People Exchange and Cooperation:** It aims to promote international people-to-people exchange and cooperation, facilitating dialogue and understanding among different civilizations.





Topic: China Global Development Initiative and the way forward for the International Community

Professor Wang Sixin (Online)

Deputy Dean of the ICSF, Communication University of China (CUC), Beijing, China

Wang Sixin began by expressing gratitude for being invited to the conference and introduced himself as a representative of the Institute for a Shared Future for My Kind. His speech focused on understanding China's Global Development Initiative and its implications for the international community.

development. China's unique path of modernization, known as the Chinese Sweet Modernizations, distinguishes itself from other countries, including the United States, despite sharing some commonalities. The Chinese government places significant emphasis on



underscores the belief that peace is essential not only for China but also for the entire world. Recognizing that development and progress can only be achieved in a peaceful environment, the Chinese government prioritizes maintaining international and territorial stability to foster peace while implementing policies and engaging in various activities.

Wang Sixin highlighted China's approach to international cooperation based on the principles of mutual benefit and a win-win paradigm. China considers itself a good neighbor and an integral part of the global community, promoting cooperation and mutual benefits in its relationships with other countries. The commitment to this idea has been reiterated by China's



To facilitate comprehension, Wang Sixin divided the China Global Development Initiative into two interconnected parts: China's Global Development Initiative itself and the path forward for the international community. He emphasized that China has made remarkable strides in economic and overall

peace, a cornerstone of daily life in China. This commitment to peace is crucial for addressing both domestic and international conflicts, such as the Taiwan issue, with an aim to resolve disputes through peaceful means and maintain stability. China's perspective on a shared future for humankind



president and the government.

Despite past conflicts with the United States, China has consistently exhibited restraint and tolerance, striving to maintain positive economic relationships with U.S. companies and the government. This approach demonstrates China's



commitment to development and its willingness to assist other nations in their progress, contributing to a positive international perception.

Key Takeaway:

- **China's Unique Path of Modernization:** China has pursued its own distinctive path of modernization. While sharing common characteristics with other countries, China's approach to modernization differs significantly. The emphasis is placed on peaceful development and maintaining stability, both domestically and internationally.
- **China's Commitment to Peace:** Peace is a fundamental principle guiding China's actions and interactions with other nations. The Chinese government and people prioritize peaceful resolutions to conflicts, whether they are international disputes or domestic issues like the Taiwan situation. China believes that a peaceful environment is essential for its own development and for fostering

positive relationships with other countries.

- **Shared Future and Win-Win Cooperation:** China is committed to constructing a shared future for humankind and



emphasizes the importance of mutual benefit and win-win cooperation. China sees itself as part of a global community and aims to build positive relationships with other nations based on cooperation, shared benefits, and a vision of a prosperous future for all.



Topic: Cultural Cooperation as a Tool for Soft Power Projection: A Case Study of China & Pakistan

Mr. Salman Ali Bittani (Online)

Lecturer, School of Politics and International Relations, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan



The guest speaker highlighted that soft power emanates from a nation's intrinsic values, institutional framework, and foreign policy, enabling it to exert influence on the global stage. Cultural relations and cooperation play a vital role in cultivating active

capitalizing on its reservoir of soft power resources. The guest speaker acknowledged China's ongoing domestic discourse on soft power projection, which varies from Western notions of politics and international

outreach to augment its soft power projection.

However, the guest speaker noted certain misconceptions that may impede China's effective building of soft power. These include equating strength solely with international perceptions, prioritizing international status over a positive global image, and overemphasizing economic expansion at the expense of cultural promotion. Addressing these misconceptions would contribute to China's efficacy in soft power projection.

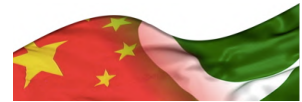


participation, meaningful dialogue, and trust between societies. Through cultural diplomacy, nations can project a favorable image and foster goodwill by showcasing their cultural identity and achievements abroad.

China's ascendance in the 21st century necessitates

relations. China places significant importance on its rich traditional culture, including Confucianism and Taoism, as a wellspring of soft power. The country has also engaged in developmental assistance, economic engagement, and cultural

In the case of Pakistan-China relations, the guest speaker acknowledged the comprehensive state-to-state interactions but highlighted the need for stronger cultural ties. Efforts to establish



people-to-people connections have grown in recent years, facilitated by initiatives such as Confucius Institutes and language-learning programs. The cultural ties between the two countries are intertwined with their political economy, serving as an extension of their economic linkages. Overcoming challenges such

as cultural differences and political tensions will be crucial in leveraging cultural cooperation effectively for soft power objectives.



Key Takeaway:

- Expand cultural exchange programs to foster deeper understanding and appreciation between China and Pakistan.
- Invest in public diplomacy initiatives to promote cultural heritage, traditions, and achievements on the international stage.
- Foster strategic collaboration to overcome challenges, mitigate tensions, and facilitate long-term cultural cooperation between the two nations.





Topic: BRI's Economic Connectivity Among the Partner Countries

Mr. Saifullah Danishwar (Afghanistan Native)

Ph.D. candidate, Hailey College of Commerce, University of the Punjab, Lahore

The guest speaker highlighted the importance of economic connectivity, particularly through transformative initiatives emerging from Afghanistan, connecting Afghans and Pakistanis. Despite some nations desiring division, the speaker acknowledged China's role in uniting countries and fostering economic cooperation.

China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) was recognized as a transformative initiative reshaping the global



economic landscape. With 147 member countries involved, the BRI has successfully transformed economic connectivity, representing two-thirds of the world's population and over 40% of global GDP. The BRI's immense scale and economic significance were emphasized, with the total value of related projects exceeding trillions of dollars.

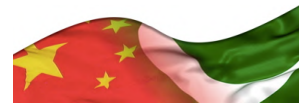
The BRI encompasses both physical infrastructure and softer components like cultural exchanges and digital connections. Projects such as roads, ports, railways, and healthcare initiatives promote cooperation and contribute to progress. The BRI was acknowledged as a catalyst for economic development, job creation, and improved livelihoods for millions of people.

China's commitment to mutual benefit and a win-win situation was highlighted, distinguishing it from traditional powers driven solely by self-interest. The BRI aims to translate economic growth into happiness and progress for all involved, fostering mutual respect and cooperation among nations.



Recommendations: Looking ahead, he provided four recommendations for further enhancing economic connectivity through the BRI:

- Prioritize sustainable and inclusive development within BRI projects and frameworks. Environmental sustainability should be considered, ensuring a sustainable bridge



between development gaps among partner countries. Moving away from single-use practices is essential for future generations.

- Promote trade facilitation and remove barriers among cross-border countries. Simplifying customs procedures, harmonizing regulations, and utilizing digital trade platforms can reduce trade costs and enhance efficiency, facilitating commerce among partner countries.
- Strengthen financial connectivity to support sustainable development projects. In addition to China's funding, local financing platforms in other countries should be improved. Collaboration with China's central bank or other financial institutions can provide necessary loans for infrastructure and development.
- Enhance people-to-people connectivity to mobilize necessary capital and infrastructure. By fostering cultural exchanges and removing language barriers, people-to-people connectivity can bridge gaps between societies, fostering mutual respect and cooperation among nations.



Topic: Role of Media in BRI's Connectivity

Ms. Liu Bei

Ph.D. Scholar, Institute for International and Area Studies (IIAS), Tsinghua University, Beijing, China

The guest speakers began by highlighting the successful partnership between China and Pakistan in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of the BRI. The CPEC focuses on infrastructure development, energy, agriculture, and economic trade. The speaker emphasized the importance of public support for BRI

projects and the role of media in shaping public opinion.

Role of Media in Shaping Public Opinion: She highlighted that media, including traditional channels and social media platforms,

has the power to influence public opinion. The media can shape public views by providing accurate and unbiased information about the projects, creating awareness, and highlighting their positive impacts.





However, media coverage may be influenced by biases, cultural differences, and language barriers, leading to potential inaccuracies and



misunderstandings.

Challenges Faced by Media Outlets: The guest speaker discussed challenges faced by media outlets covering BRI projects. These challenges include biased reporting based on political affiliations or ideological beliefs, cultural

and language barriers, and changes in the media landscape due to information and communication technologies. It was emphasized that understanding the current international communication patterns and the influence of social media platforms is essential for effective media coverage.

Strategies for Accurate and Unbiased Reporting: To overcome communication challenges, the speaker recommended collaboration with local media organizations. Collaborating with local media helps in understanding the cultural and linguistic contexts of BRI

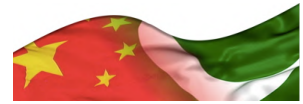
projects, leading to more accurate reporting. The use of social media platforms was also highlighted as an effective tool to reach wider audiences and engage with the public. By addressing concerns and questions, media outlets can provide more transparent information and foster public support.



Keynotes:

- The role of media is crucial in shaping public opinion about the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and its projects. Media outlets have the power to influence public perception by selectively presenting information that supports a particular narrative.
- Accurate and unbiased media coverage is essential for the success of BRI projects. Media organizations should strive to provide comprehensive and balanced reporting, taking into account cultural, linguistic, and political factors that may affect their coverage.
- Collaboration with local media organizations and the use of social media platforms are effective strategies for improving media coverage of BRI projects. Local media





organizations have a better understanding of the regions where BRI projects are implemented, while social media platforms allow for wider audience reach and engagement. These strategies help promote mutual understanding and cooperation among stakeholders.





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