

# China: Foe or Friend after Doklam

## Abstract

This paper present the current picture of Indo-China relation in wake of historical stand taken by Indian side ever since the British leaves us with responsibility to take care of oneself with her ambiguous and disputed legacy at every front especially with dragon. The source of paper basically depends upon news and reports from both national and international institutions, NGO's, think tanks, experts in the field and scholarly journals.

**Keywords:** Globalization, Economy, Connectivity, Foe

## Introduction

This is the era of paradigm shift in globalization and rising era of Asia (ADB, report 2011), India (Price water house Coper, report), an era of China (David Graddol 2009). These are the common issue that experts debating while thinking about future of international order. India and China are the two ancient civilizations, a natural neighbor, who have had centuries long trade and cultural exchanges but in modern times, their relationship has been more tensed, sensitive, and adversarial than friendly. Two states in any part of the world are closer than ever.

This close connectivity between states is fruitful to both sides but they also feel the friction and unrest more than ever. So in absence of any political consensus at international level, nations have had to do hard job to protect their interest and safety of people. As big economic and military powers, India and China are key strategic players in the world. Both nations have several similar attributes and problems including large population, huge rural-urban, rising economy and conflict with neighbors. Despite both are locking their horns every here and there But both China and India are very cautious about their right place in the international community. In a recent standoff in Doaklam (The New York Times, July 26) all of sudden they agreed to de-escalate tension, almost three month long, along the border (the HINDU 2017 august, 28) in the wake of their BRICS meet. It can be noticed that in their relations they are well aware with their economic interest and future spot in international community. The standoff upon border gives their relation anew look to indo China relation. We here torched light upon the new role of economics in India and China relation, whether they will be friend of foe in coming years of their international roles.

## Study Duration

6 Month.

## Review of Literature

Abundant literature and work has been done in the field of bilateral relation between India and China and there was almost consensus among authors and expert about the dominance of china in that perspective the sweet spot of their bilateral relation always enjoyed by China with some exception. As Nehru's saying that India should find its protection being friend than enemy. But narrative has been changed now since the new government at centre. Very few notice the balance of policy with China and future implication of it. more research need to be done in the view of 21th centuries need and importance of trade and commerce between the China and India than border issue.

## Aim of Study

Paper intended to study the recent standoff at Doklam, keeping eyes upon perpetual dispute between both country looking their relation amidst the ample opportunity ahead in international arena. At no cost they wanted to lose their hopeful post in international order. Also throw the light upon the changes taking place during the period, internal external, bilateral and global. How much both sides have changes them in terms of economic, political, cultural social and upon strategic issue considering past and hoping future.

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**Ground Report**

India and china both have history of hostile exchanges. They have had a full-fledged war in 1962 and several stand-offs till date. China was in upper hand in the 1962 war in the 1967 and 1987 which occurred when Mao and Deng reigned where china faced tough standing Sikkim. The recent face-offs at Depsang, Demchok and Doklam have all taken place during Xi's tenure. Recently army of India and China are locked at tri junction of India, China and Bhutan at Doklam in Sikkim sector. The faceoff was aggravated when a team of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) was prevented by Indian troops to extending a class-5 road in the Doklam Plateau area which belongs to Bhutanese territory. The Indian Army acted according to a request from the Royal Bhutan Army under the treaty of the 2007 Bilateral Friendship Treaty. Moreover, the PLA's road building is against the spirit of the 2012 Agreement between the Special Representatives of India and China, whereby the status quo was needed to be maintained in the said area until the resolution of the tri-junction in consideration with Bhutan.

**China India Side by Side**

China emerging as new global power in the world. China has showed an unprecedented development and potential, presently world's second biggest GDP (nominal) in PPP and first place in export. It an outstanding performance to multiply its economy seven times in just 30 years with the average of 9% to 10 % per annum. Manage to Ascension towards the high table of international community. China is obviously the biggest story in the Asia in terms of economic growth. China's development is the driving force of the world economy, presently having big share almost 9 % to global economy comparatively just 1.8 in 1979 (Justine YiFu Lin, 2012). Recently Renminbi (RMB) became first developing market currency to be included in IMF's Special Drawing Rights basket. Its economy have local and global impact altogether, China became second trade partner with the US and the EU. Now Chinese firm turn their policy to global targets and vision, saying go-global. Export still main fraction of Chinese economy representing total 26 % of GDP. China's economic development leads it to other phenomenon too; its development in the field of science, space, R&D, and military power changed its role in international level. China has world's second biggest army with nuclear power specially independent in many strategic need rightly hoping its disserving seat in international forum. China's presence in the globe can not be denied having face of hard core military police working on soft power relation with world. Recently China expresses its strong ambitious willingness to lead the world in midst foot back from the West and the US. Project like BRI and other is part of that strategy. But china often rude to international law and obligation

Whereas India too have success story after British leaves it. India is world's largest democracy yet to realize and enjoy its potential fully. Today Indian economy is more integrated and connected with global economy ever before. After reforms taken in

1992 Indian economy has reflect consistent annual growth of 6 to 9 percent. It is a 6<sup>th</sup> largest economy in (nominal) and third in PPP value surpassing many European countries but low per capita income. Presently India is the fastest growing economy in the world (IMF report 2015). India Surpasses China in 2015 and in 2017. India may be late in 21th century to come in its full potential but will hold the peak more than its rival China. Indian development have very unique characteristic of self sufficient market where internal mobilization is almost like the US. India has most population below to working age and holds no one spot in the in the IT and BPO sector. India service playing backbone role in india economy. Resent reforms like Make in India, GST and FDI turn to be very crucial for future possibility. India now shifted its focus on production hub, recent scientific achievements in R&D and space indicate its resolution to be self sufficient in these important and guiding field of economics. Indian military power is strong enough to combat every corner air field and water with nuclear weapons though not use first policy. Its striking capabilities is extended to whole china and undergoing project for whole world. India working good upon its soft power strategy, leading third worlds countries, making strong presence in international issues through UN and diplomatic channel seems ahead of China making image of a responsible country. India's long demanding reform in Security Council gains worldwide support which gives it hope to future presence of biggest democracy in the international table.

**Present Scenario**

India and China have legacy of hostile relation since decades. They have involved in a full-fledged war but it is also true that they did not show willingness to involve again. For example as PM Modi said that there is not a single fire on boundary since then. Exeperts says that in 21<sup>st</sup> century war will be fought by economics, technology and development. On question whether India and china will involve in another war Bertil Lintnersays that there isn't going war between India and china (the hindu).

There is consistent virtual war and standoff between India and China not at boundary but also at diplomatic and strategic presence in international level. China always impedes India's any proposal whether related to terrorism or membership in the various international council and association, for example NSC council and Mumbai bomb blast master mind Hafiz Shayed. India also not lags behind by intervening in South China Sea or 'quad' association with the US Australia and Japan which irked dragon. When the West and the US stepping back china see India as only rival in the region. India has good will of relation between smaller under developing countries where china image is quite like haughty member. Internationally, PRC remains a lonely power. It has used diplomacy effectively to exploit differences among the adversaries to its advantage. The PRC's assertiveness around its periphery is attributable to its age old belief of a 'subdued neighborhood' being an essential prerequisite for stability.

**Beyond Doklam**

PRC always keen follow the policy of consistent coercion and design, India has no option but to narrow the existing gap between the two countries and lead the relation in comparative and economic atmosphere. Developing strategic partnerships, initiatives like 'Indo-Pacific Economic Corridor', 'Act East Policy' Quadrilateral treaties and counter balancing strategies are steps in the right direction. Irritants for India in future may be

Both need to enhance their relation from the ancient civilizations to "cooperative partners", "develop complementary", "cooperation security" for "achieving the common dream of an Asian century". At One hand where China's working age population at its peak in 2012, the median age will be 49 by 2050, and with national debt approx 300 percent of GDP. It May fail to achieve its target of becoming rich before growing old. India economy cannot be 10 trillion economy without integration with growing Asian and develop economy. Its global demeaned that both work together to realize that this era as Asian centric era. In the growing order of multi-polar world where economic strength is keeps more value than military strength. 19<sup>th</sup> convention of PRC announces is willingness and efforts towards integrated world which sound good both for China itself and China India relation.

**Conclusion****Future of relation and policy option for India**

This was really a very romantic situation spotted in their relation when both countries exchanging hostility but all of suddenly in wake of their BRICS meet, which is economic and strategically important subject to both countries, changed their stand dramatically. Here they prefer their economic interest than border issue which is good sign for both India and China for future relation. By this crucial example we easily can guess what will be the core agenda of their future relation. The both nations have

several similar attributes and problems including large population, huge rural-urban, rising economy and conflict with neighbors', rising gap in terms of income etc. In this regard their internal problem seem more important to them than engaging unnecessary issue which may have a diplomatic solution. They also fully aware with their future position in international community which is of great importance to them than the issue along the border. May be presentably there is no solution predictable regarding to their border issue which is main reason of conflict between them but they certainly do not let this be core issue and override their economic and strategic interests.

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