

### China and India Relations

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# China and India Relations

## Historical Relations of China and India

Historically, two important civilizations have historical relations. The roots of the relations between two of the world's oldest civilizations, which put their backs on the accumulation of nearly five thousand years of history, extend to the depths of this great history. China, the world's second-largest economy, and India, the fifth-largest economy, are two major forces that determine regional dynamics in Asia. In the 21st Century, the relations between two great countries were important both in the population and geographically. About 50% of the world lives in these two countries. China and India continual accretion of economic power will likely position them among the top three economies internationally by the year 2050.<sup>1</sup>

It is observed that the impact and relationship of Buddhism born in India and spread in Southeast Asia and China maintain the characteristic of being one of the important elements determining the geopolitical balances of knowledge from the past to the present. In order to better understand this effect, it is necessary to remember that Buddhism, which started with science and religion exchanges between the two countries from the 1st century before the Christian Era, and the translation of Sanskrit texts, continued its quest in China until the 11th century and until it left its place to Taoism with Confucius, it continued its sovereignty indefinitely for While many commercial goods, especially Silk, were transported to India through China, the Chinese names they brought with them were preserved in the cultural heritage of the Indian subcontinent. In addition, China's influence on India in the history of relations is not only limited to trade, technology and industry in the areas of deep influence on its neighbor must be noted.<sup>2</sup> Even before the advent of Buddhism, the Shang-Zhou civilization and the ancient Vedic civilization in 1500-1000 B.C. showed some evidence of conceptual and linguistic exchanges. For instance, "wumingzhi" (nameless finger) in Chinese is called "anamika" (nameless) in Sanskrit and in Pali. Similarly, some ancient Indian literature mentions "chinas" referring to the Chinese people. The Mahabharata of the fifth century B.C. contains reference to China. Chanakya of the Maurya dynasty (350-283 B.C.) refers to Chinese silk as "chinamsuka" (Chinese silk dress) and "chinapatta" (Chinese silk bundle) in his Arthashastra. Likewise, the Record of the Grand Historian of Zhang Qian and Sima Qian has references to "Shendu", may be referring to "Sindhu" in Sanskrit.<sup>3</sup>

In 1978, trade relations India and China officially 'again,' he began in 1984, and mutually the two countries 'trade the most-favoured-nation' proclaimed. Trade volume increased from \$ 3 million in 1991 to \$ 2.9 billion in the early 2000s, to \$ 4.9 billion in 2002, to \$ 7.6 billion in 2003 and to \$ 13.6 billion in 2004. During Wen

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<sup>1</sup> Ashley J. Tellis 2011 The National Bureau of Asian Research "Strategic Asia 2011-12 Asia responds to its rising powers China and India", 4

<sup>2</sup> Chaturvedi, G., (1991), India-China Relations: 1947 to Present Day, MG, (India), 5.

<sup>3</sup> "China India Relation" <http://indianembassy.org.cn/>

Jiabao's visit to Delhi in April 2005, the trade volume reached 18.7 billion dollars at that time, and reached 20 billion dollars in 2008 (this figure was largely captured at the end of 2006). In 2010, they announced that they intend to raise to 30 billion dollars. By 2006, the two countries re-established their targets by raising the bar. In 2010, they agreed to increase their trade volume to \$ 40 billion, while they announced that there was an opportunity to co-exist, based on cooperation, rather than competition, for the two emerging economies in the status of developing countries, which are increasingly shaping the global economy.<sup>4</sup>

## **Foreign Relations Between the China and India**

When we look at the twentieth century, we see that the treatment of India and China as an independent state until 1947 and 1949 by Western powers laid the foundation for political cooperation in the middle of the century.

While India had a long colonial history under British rule, China had a history of similar suffering. China, which faced the West for the first time during the 1839-1841 Opium War, was forced to open its ports with the Treaty of Nanking dated 1842.<sup>5</sup> During the Taiping uprising, which began in 1850 and lasted for fourteen years, the open door was opened with foreign missionaries and diplomats, and China had to be completely dissolved in the face of the West. This time while making the British the sole ruler of Asia, it has started a period of many years in which the fate of Asia was written by a non-Asian power.

The end of World War 2 in August 1945, an arrival in the Indian subcontinent, and the beginning of a civil war in China. Britain's withdrawal from India and the transfer of its powers in two separate and new states, India and Pakistan, as well as China, the nationalists and communists in the same period of time was the scene of a violent civil war between. The independence of India .in the past, while the two neighbours could not escape from the turmoil of the region, Mahatma Gandhi clearly expressed his desire to awaken his country's old friendship: "I longed for the time when free India and free China would work together and in friendship for the common good of Asia and the world."<sup>6</sup>

India declared its independence in August 1947 before China. The Chinese people's Republic of China was founded in October 1949, and the Chinese people's Republic of China took its place on the world stage. As an indicator of the hope of establishing friendship and cooperation among the neighbors, India Gandhi stated above, he recognized the people's Republic of China in December 1949, which was founded in October 1949, and appointed the ambassador to Beijing. India was the first country to recognize the people's Republic of China among countries that are not under socialist rule.<sup>7</sup> Jawaharlal Nehru is the architect of the Chinese policy followed by India in the early years of independence. Nehru's Chinese policy is based on the

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<sup>4</sup> Gentleman, A., (2006), "China and India Emphasize Cooperation", The New York Times, [www.nytimes.com/2006/11/21/world/asia/21cnd-india.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2006/11/21/world/asia/21cnd-india.html)

<sup>5</sup> Mcneil, W., (2005), *Dünya Tarihi*, .ev. Şenel A., İmge Yayınevi, (Ankara), 627-628

<sup>6</sup> Lal, P. S., (1992), "India-China Relations", *International Relations and Foreign Policy of India-3*, (eds Grover, V.), Deep&Deep, (India), 199

<sup>7</sup> Sharma, B., (1992), "The Indo-Chinese Pact", *International Relations and Foreign Policy of India-3*, (eds Grover, V.), Deep&Deep, (India), 27.

principles of friendship, good neighbourliness and cooperation. The main reasons behind this choice can be listed as follows. First of all, Nehru believed that the relationship between India and China would play a decisive role for Asia, especially for South Asia Peace.

According to Nehru, an Asian resistance to the West, led by India and China, had to be built. India and China's hostile approach to each other would hurt all of Asia, and would benefit the West. In addition, the idea of reducing the impact of the Cold War as much as possible by keeping the super powers away from Asia has been one of the factors shaping the Nehru's policy towards China.<sup>8</sup> It is also important to note that this approach of Nehru is based on the view of the world.

After the invasion of Tibet in 1959, the Dalai Lama, the spiritual leader of Tibet, fled to India to form a government in exile here, along the border region of Aksai Chin, China's construction of a road and India's controversial regions, such as military outposts, caused a war between the two countries in 1962.

After all the tensions between the two countries, diplomatic relations started again in 1976. With the re-establishment of diplomatic relations, relations between the two countries gained momentum. Another process in which the emphasis on India-China relations was met in cooperation was followed by the occupation of Afghanistan in 1979 by the Soviets. Since the 1960s, the neighbors, whose competition in the relations has taken place in the dimension of conflict, have felt the need to promote mutual interaction and cooperation in the face of the occupation at their sides. This is because the occupation has upset the long-term plans and strategic accounts of the region of China and India, although it is in close relations with the Soviet Union. In addition to the occupation, the reasons for the change in emphasis in relations are the damages that both sides suffered from economic development in the 1960s and the competition climate that was entered into under the influence of the Cold War.<sup>9</sup> Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's landmark visit in 1988 began a phase of improvement in bilateral relations. In 1993, the signing of an Agreement on the Maintenance of Peace and Tranquility along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) on the India-China Border Areas during Prime Minister Narasimha Rao's visit reflected the growing stability and substance in bilateral ties.<sup>10</sup> During this period, the emphasis that began to cooperate in relations continued to the present day after the end of the Cold War. President of India in 1992 Venkataraman paid a visit to China in exchange for his visit to China President Jiang Zemin, India in 1996.

The statement of Indian Prime Minister Singh, which he used to meet Chinese Prime Minister Wen in Delhi in 2005, summarizes the most important answers to the question of why India and China will reshape the world order together, today, "interaction and cooperation in India-China relations" comes to the fore. As Singh said, India and China, as the two rising powers, have more than a third of the world's population, are cooperating to reshape the world order-that is, to move from single polarity to multi-polarity, and to get where they want in the new order.

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<sup>8</sup> Swarup, S., (1992), "A Brief Note on India's China Policy", " International Relations and Foreign Policy of India-3, (eds Grover, V.), Deep&Deep, (India), 106-107

<sup>9</sup> Kumar, D., (1992), "The Current State of Sino-Indian Relations", International Relations and Foreign Policy of India-3, (eds Grover, V.), Deep&Deep, (India), 185., 114-115.

<sup>10</sup> "China India Relations" <http://indianembassy.org.cn/>

The decision of the leaders of the two countries to deepen and improve cooperation in the fields of software and hardware during the 2005 Delhi meeting in which the Chinese Indian partnership, which has strategic and global dimensions, is very important. In another interview, the characteristics that neighbors have used throughout history to provide superiority to each other, and when the question asked in the introduction section is answered in the direction of cooperation, they can become the tools of competition and together become the forces of enrichment.

### **Prime Minister's visit to China (May 2015)**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited China from May 14-16, the visit was rich in symbolism and substance and it opened up a new chapter in India-China relations. For the first time, Chinese President Xi Jinping travelled outside Beijing to receive a foreign leader, in Xi'an in Keqiang joined Prime Minister at the Yoga-Taichi performance in Beijing on 15 May with the world heritage site of Temple of Heaven as the backdrop, the first ever such event, which highlighted the cultural connectivity between the two countries his home province of Shaanxi. President Xi also accompanied Prime Minister to the Big Wild Goose Pagoda and organized a grand welcome ceremony at the Xi'an city wall. Premier Li.<sup>11</sup>

The 18th round of talks between the Special Representatives of India and China on the Boundary Question, Shri Ajit Doval, National Security Advisor and Mr. Yang Jiechi, State Councillor was held in New Delhi on 23 March, 2015. Both Sides agreed to take necessary steps to maintain peace and tranquility in the border areas which is a pre-requisite for continued growth of bilateral relations. The two sides agreed to build on the momentum provided by President Xi's visit to further expand bilateral relations in areas such as railways, smart cities, vocational education, skill development, clean and renewable energy and manufacturing sector. Both sides agreed that growing linkages between Indian States and Chinese Provinces through sister-city and sister-province mechanism plays an important role in deepening bilateral ties. The two sides exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest and agreed to enhance their consultations on counter-terrorism, maritime security, climate change, reform of United Nations and civil nuclear energy cooperation.<sup>12</sup> In addition, India became a full member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization at Astana Summit held in Kazakhstan in 2017.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Argentina's capital Buenos Aires, Wuhan. This was the fourth meeting between the two leaders in 2018. The twenty-first round of negotiations between the Chinese and Indian private representatives on border disputes took place in central Chengdu, Southwest China, under the co-operation of Undersecretary of State and Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Indian National Security Adviser Ajit Doyal on November 24, 2018. China President Xi Jinping said in a statement "Both sides should strive to accelerate implementation, maintain strategic communication, expand economic and commercial cooperation, encourage people

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<sup>11</sup> "China India Relations" <http://indianembassy.org.cn/>

<sup>12</sup> "China India Relations" <http://indianembassy.org.cn/>

and cultural exchanges, and improve coordination and cooperation in international and regional relations, "

### **China-India-Pakistan Triangle and Kashmir**

Kashmir is an area of 86,000 square miles in the northern part of the Indian subcontinent. Kashmir is adjacent to Afghanistan and China in the north, to Pakistan in the south and West, and to India in the East and South. The region, which is defined as "Paradise Valley Kashmir", has natural beauty as well as its underground richness and is an important transit point for energy. Water Resources in the region are very important for Pakistan and India agriculture and energy. The Himalayas and Karakorum, Pir and pancal mountains, where the highest mountain range of the world, combine in Kashmir. Kashmir, Rich in underground minerals, has gold, emerald and Ruby reserves. According to the 1941 census, 77% of the region was Muslim, 20% were Hindu and 3% were Buddhists and Sikhs. According to 2011, approximately 68.3% of the population are Muslims, 28.4% are Hindus, 1.7% Are Magic, 0.7% are Buddhists, and 0.5% are Christians. In 2018, the estimated population of the region has exceeded 14 million. With India and Pakistan gaining independence from England in 1947, the "Kashmir problem" emerged. 1947 a new country named Pakistan was established and India declared its independence. After independence, Cammu Kashmir is one of the three troubled regions in the Indian subcontinent. While the other two regions were included in India, the Kashmir region, which is 77% Muslim, did not want to be included in India. The internal disturbances in Kashmir, whose main aim is to remain as an independent region, constitute the beginning of the events in 1947. The first war between Pakistan and India on October 26, 1947 was the first war between Pakistan and India in Kashmir. As a result of this war, one-third of Kashmir was involved in Pakistan and the rest of India was involved in the administration. In 1948, India did not accept the proposal for a solution to the fate of the Kashmir people as a result of the UN referendum. India claims that Kashmir should go to the Indian government with a document dated 1947.

In 1965, there was a second war between Pakistan and India. In 1972, with the Simla treaty, both countries formally recognized the Control Line, which is described as a renunciation of Pakistan's rights by many authorities. The people of Kashmir, who were unhappy with the Indian administration in the years 1980-1990, started an uprising. Tens of thousands of people died in the riots. India does not want to lose 20% of its control over the region where Hindu lives. On the other hand, the administration of Pakistan could weaken India. India is important to claim that Pakistan has supported terrorist organizations through separatist groups in Kashmir and to want to make it publicly available to the international community.

India refuses all intermediary activities and tries to prevent a referendum in the region. It can be said that India is reluctant to allow independence because it is a very ethnic country. India admits Kashmir has a Muslim majority and claims India is an integral part of it.

India controls the south of Kashmir. This region is called Cammu-Kashmir region. Nearly 45% of Kashmir is controlled by India. Kashmir's strategic points are under India's control. This gives India an advantage in managing the region. China rejects claims that Kashmir is an integral part of India. After the Sino-Indian War in

1962, China was actively involved in the process. After the war, the Aksai China region, which was subordinate to Kashmir, was under the control of China.

In 1970, China began to play a role alongside Pakistan with the deterioration of China-India relations. Since the 1980s, China has been trying to maintain a more balanced policy. China controls approximately 20% of Kashmir. China does not support a possible independence scenario like India, but fears that it will set an example on its own territory.

### **Bangladesh – China - India - Myanmar Economic Corridor**

During Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang's visit to India in May 2013, the two countries proposed the establishment of the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor. Bangladesh and Myanmar also supported this call, which aims to strengthen ties between the two major markets, such as China and India, and to strengthen ties in the region. In December 2013, the first meeting of the Joint Working Group for the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor was held in Kunming, the capital city of Yunnan province. A joint research plan for the construction of the corridor was signed at the meeting. Together with the meeting, the mechanism to promote cooperation between the four countries was officially established.

During his visit to India in September 2014, Chinese President Xi Jinping met with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Xi urged the two countries to boost the construction of the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor and develop cooperation within the framework of a generation-a-way. In December of the same year, the second meeting of the Joint Working Group was held at the Kok Bazaar of Bangladesh, where the vision of the Economic Corridor, the priority areas and the direction of development were discussed.

The Economic Corridor of Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar will bring direct benefits to four countries, and will have a positive impact on the joint development of Asia's south, southeast and East.

One of the most effective value propositions of the BRI, including with regards to South Asia, is that it can provide abundant capital to stimulate regional connectivity through “complementary projects” and “joint projects” spearheaded by India and China in neighboring countries. In fact, the impact of China’s push to help fill the infrastructure gap in the region goes beyond specific projects: Beijing’s drive is by itself creating momentum for the conversation on connectivity across the region, stimulating the Indian Government to review its own approach to infrastructure development in South Asia. One example is the Bangladesh–Bhutan–India–Nepal (BBIN) connectivity project recently announced by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> Jabin T. Jacob “China’s Belt and Road Initiative Perspectives from India” *China & World Economy* / 78–100, Vol. 25, No. 5, 2017, 84



## **China and India Relations Competition or Friendship**

The prevailing narrative by and large taken from a neo-realist point of view, and most of times Western fabricated, is rich on envisaging the relation between China and India in the Indian Ocean as one which yields for conflict, feeding up the notion that China poses an increasing threat to the effective geographic presence of India in the Ocean. Notwithstanding the strategic developments each country has been staging, this situation, I argue, clearly puts forward the interests of external forces to the region, particularly the United States.<sup>14</sup>

The Southeast Asian solution to the rise of China and India has thus centered on welcoming the ascendancy of both powers, seeking to profit from greater economic integration with both, and soliciting their participation in larger regional institutions, while with an anxious eye on China encouraging “the United States to remain engaged in the region while viewing India as adding ballast that is, geostrategic weight to relations with China.” By so doing, the Southeast Asian states seek to deter China from utilizing its growing strength for coercive purposes and, so long as Beijing refrains from behaving threateningly, hope to avoid being put in a position where they are “forced to choose between external powers.” Unlike in the other two regions investigated in this volume, India’s growing economic involvement in East Asia, its comparative advantages in sea power vis-à-vis China, its easy access to the region unconstrained by geography and aided by both geopolitics and history, and the assurance that derives from its increasingly closer relations with the United States make New Delhi a welcome and valued ally in the regional effort to develop a stable equilibrium vis-à-vis a rising China.<sup>15</sup>

## **Conclusion**

China and India are among the most important countries that are effective both in the historical and cultural aspects of Asia in terms of geography and population. With the independence of the two countries with a long historical interaction, beautiful relations have been established. But at the same time the border problems and the relations between the two countries have experienced problems and diplomatic relations have been interrupted. China and India relations are a complicated process of friendship and hostility.

Looking at the economic data, China and India's rise is on reality. Economic rise, according to many authors, has a view that the two countries will turn into competition. They think that China and India have caused economic competition to experience problems. India's entry into the Shanghai Cooperation Organization certainly eliminates the notion that there will be competition between the two countries, which is understood to be increasing their diplomatic and economic relations. Historically they were aware of this fact in Gandhi and Nehru. So they made statements stressing that their relations with China would be decisive in the rise of Asia. He emphasized the river that if the two countries were to compete, they

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<sup>14</sup> Maria Bastos, "The Indian Ocean and the Rise of a Multi-polar World Order: The Role of China and India" Policy Perspectives, 18

<sup>15</sup> Ashley J. Tellis "Strategic Asia 2011-12 Asia responds to its rising powers China and India" 2011 The National Bureau of Asian Research, 31

would suffer from it. If India and China compete, they both lose, but if they work together, they both can win.

China's relations with India will undoubtedly develop in the future. India is also a member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and the fate of the two countries will be tied to one of the economic and political projects, such as BCIM, which are carried out with China. There is no need to be a prophet to see the future. India and China, who want to create economic and political power, have no choice but to strengthen their friendship ties.

China and India are strategically partners. India and China unite in a multipolar world desire and carry on their relations within a framework of intense emphasis on cooperation with global and strategic dimensions. In the past, China and India had experienced imperialist exploitation to create a new world is the goal of the two countries. Because they believe that an Asian alliance against the hegemony of imperialism will create a multipolar order. We can also infer the fact that all positive efforts to solve Asian problems will be dealt with as good relations.