



SINO-INDIAN RELATIONS IN INDIAN OCEAN IN THE 21ST CENTURY: MARITIME SECURITY COOPERATION

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Abstract

The Sino-Indian relationship in the Indian Ocean Region is a unique relationship characterized by the elements of complex security. These two nations not only have to manage their age old rivalry, but also pursue cooperation. Over the last couple of years, both China and India have emerged as major economies and potential global powers and are together the topic of much academic focus and media coverage. The underlying elements of mistrust, tensions and disputes still remain deep rooted. However the regional shifts in the balance of power and changing dynamics in the international milieu have resulted in the two states striving to engage with each other, while simultaneously reviving the process of confidence building and also competing for greater global power and influence. The study is focusing on cooperation and competition between Sino-Indian relations with the help of Regional Security Complex Theory (RSCT) by Barry Buzan and Ole Waever. The paper analysed the importance of the Indian Ocean Region in India's strategic thinking. Both are fast emerging as major maritime powers in the Indian Ocean Region as part of long-term shifts in the regional balance of power. As their interests, power expands and wealth, the two countries are also increasingly coming into contact with each other in the maritime domain. How India and China get along in the shared Indo-Pacific cooperation in the trade, coexistence, competition, or confrontation may be one of the key strategic challenges of the 21st century. The Sino-Indian relationship is a difficult one because the security relations remain relatively complicated and volatile is by numerous unresolved issues. India perceives China as attempting to restructure the strategic environment in its kindness, with by establishing positions with neighboring countries that could be used against India.



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Introduction

In the IOR India and China are fast emerging as major maritime powers as part of a long term shift in the regional balance of power. In the maritime as their interests, wealth, and power expanded, these are the two countries also progressively coming into contact with each other domain. How India and China get along in the shared Indian Ocean competition and cooperation, coexistence, or confrontation may be one of the key strategic challenges of the 21st century. The Sino-Indian relationship is a difficult one because their security relations

continue relatively complicated and unstable is by various unsettled issues. Not least is China's growing presence in the Indian Ocean. India perceives China as attempting to restructure the strategic atmosphere in its favour, with by shaping alliances with neighbouring countries that could be used against India. Nor is the relationship well understood. There is comparatively little knowledgeable analysis of in what way China and India will cooperate as maritime powers, and dialogue of this issue in both countries rarely pursues to explore the other's perceptions and purposes (*Brewster, 2016*).

In the IO region has continued free from major conflicts, and permitting nations to continue appreciating the benefits of the maritime sphere. Still, the security environment is changing, possibly challenging the continued stability of the region. Rapid economic and military modernization, combined with growing resource demands, has intensified the possible for struggle over long-lasting territorial disagreements. In increase, non-traditional threats such as weapons proliferation, human and other illicit trafficking like drug trafficking, money laundering, piracy, and natural disasters continue to pose significant security challenges. On the other hand, we have seen a number of positive trends in recent years as well, including the peaceful resolution of maritime disputes in the region.

The fastest economic growth of India and China is the noticeable transformations of the relationship are the causes of increasing interest in this relationship with the international community. As their strategic complexity and future importance challenge any easy explanation, Sino Indian relations makes for a compelling case study. India's objective of becoming a regional power in South Asia led to the cultivation of cooperative and friendly relations with its neighbours in the region through bilateralism. India's aspiration of becoming a regional power in South Asia led to the development of cooperative and friendly relations with its neighbours in region through bilateralism. The strategic complexity and the future importance of the two countries make it difficult to understand the dynamics. These growing presences of China and USA along with the changing attitude of immediate neighbours are major concerns in India. But neither has developed a grand strategy to observe each other.

India and China's wider political and security consequences, there are competitive elements and cooperative possibilities. This phenomenon remains a part and package of Sino-India relationship in the 21st century. As states, both countries have recognized the need to work together to lubricate the international system that has served them well and to pursue peaceful ties which would enhance their security. In this context, the growing interest of China in the South Asian as well as in the Indian Ocean has opened up debates over India and China

relations. This development is a major strategic concern for India. It is estimated that around 40 per cent of the world's offshore oil production comes from the Indian Ocean, 65 per cent of the oil and 35 per cent of its gas reserve are found in the littoral states of this Ocean.

The IOR is the home of many strait, such as the Strait of Hormuze, Strait of Malacca, Lombok and the Sunda Strait. In this context, this proposed research work will attempt to re-explore the bilateral relationship between India and China with a special focus on Maritime Security. About India's maritime future, the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India's reports show that, "The Indian Ocean is central to India's geography, climate, economy and its security. At the same time, it is also a region of growing global strategic attention. India sustains to make endeavour that the Indian Ocean arises as arecognized region, able to manage with maritime piracy or volatility, whether on its own or in partnership with the littoral states. India has not only established rich bilateral security and economic relationships in the region, but also through creativities like Indian Ocean Naval Symposium and the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Co-operation (IOR-ARC), sought to promote comprehensive economic cooperation (*M.E.A 2012*).

Background: Overview of Sino-India Relations

India and China, both beneficiaries of ancient civilisations, India and China emerged as powerful and influential with their economic capabilities and geopolitical positions in Asia. Ancient time both had strong and long civilizations. Today, both have emerged as the most dominant and powerful Asian countries in terms of economic capabilities and geopolitical position. As well as the relation between India and China has always been multifaceted with multi-layered regional and global dimensions, their bilateral relationship is complicated. Robert D. Kaplan argues that Sino-Indian relations will move on a more or less even keel in the predictable future. It will make for strong undercurrents of competition and context between the two Asian giants. On land as well as on water certainly China represents and threatens as a major long term competitor, even primary security challenges for India (Kaplan, 2010).

According to Jain, 'Flowering relations' between India and China in the early 1950s were based on peaceful co-existence. But these withered and faded in an atmosphere of mutual hostility following the 1962 war between the two countries (Jain, 2004). India and China have a fifty year old history of conflict, but the bilateral relationship and current diplomacy, have kept tensions under check. However, as far as power, is concerned the fact is at that India and China's military and nuclear power equation is heavily at an angle in China's favor. India's concern is that, which China and Pakistan's political and military nexus had and has a

prominent anti-India slant. In the context of globalization, the end of the cold war USA and USSR has offered remarkable opportunities for regional programs. From the time when economic prosperity has a direct linkage with safety of sea-lines and maintenance of good order on the high seas, for seeking cooperation the maritime area presumes significant importance.

Statement of Problem

The proposed research work will focus on maritime security and economic relation between India and China. At present the Indian Ocean region is moving to the centre of the global geostrategic agenda. At this juncture, China's dominating presence in this region (including the Malacca Strait) and their encircling policy known as a string of pearls has remains a major security concern for India. They will focus on the contemporary relations between China and India, will show what role trade and cooperation have had in moving the attention away from maritime security-related issues. In modern history China and India's emergence as global powers is unparalleled. Sino-Indian bilateral relations are defined by a complex balance of competition and cooperation.

Objectives of the study

- To examine the economic cooperation and competition between India and China.
- To analysis the importance of Indian Ocean Region in India's strategic thinking.

Hypothesis

China's dominantly control of the Indian Ocean region hampered the relation with India. China's rise as an opportunity for better relations rather than a threat and accept that that china's acquiescence to and play by the obtaining maritime rules has allowed Asia to become a key driver of their economy.

Methodology

This article is based on three methods, i.e. Qualitative and quantitative. Qualitative method is used in this study because the theoretical framework is constructed on the base of observation of previous studies, articles, reports and case studies related to the subject of this work. Quantitative approach is also used in this research as the numeric records from Indian and Chinese. In the primary sources the study will use the government annual report on India's Maritime Security board and policy, Ministry of external affairs reports. In a secondary study will use books, articles, journals, newspapers and lectures.

Scope of the study

The study will examine the strategic and economic importance of the Malacca straits waterway in the Indian Ocean Region and South China Sea including technical and legal issues. Particularly this study will focus on India and China maritime interests as well as China's string of pearl strategy. It will suggest possible functioning strategies based on periods learned from past and present ideas. Special attention will be given to the importance of Malacca straits between India and China. The Malacca Straits strategically very important to derive from a combination of geopolitical, economic, and military factors.

New Geopolitics and Sino-India relations

The 21st century is predicted on the strong economic performance of the numerous countries in the rise of Asian power and its altered strategic outline. Thousands and thousands of merchant vessels transit the Malacca straits in every year (*NMP, 2013*). The development of the Asian countries in globalization and rapid economic has encouraged a new sense of confidence that is reflected in their strategic profile. In Asia along civilizational history of India and China of superiority, and now getting on their process of economic transformation reflected in their sustained economic growth, socio-economic development, and strategies. The maritime increase Asian power in the 21st century is at the present attributing the active and determined rise of India and China.

In the IOR that, the first decades of the 21st century have observed paradigmatic instability. For global trade and arena for global security the Indian Ocean represents an increasingly significant avenue. Increasing prosperity in Asia, growing necessity on natural resource flows linking producers and consumers across the Middle East, Asia, Africa, and globalized supply chains. The distribution network knit the region ever more closely together by the sea. At the same time, emerging problems ranging from territorial disputes and piracy in the regional seas to global environmental pressures on marine and coastal resources poses significant governance challenges for maritime policymakers around the IOR. Level area surrounded for global security and global trade the Indian Ocean represents an increased significant opportunity.

The Indian Ocean region is fast becoming a competing ground between regional and extra-regional powers. The option for India is to either maintain strategic autonomy by building hard power or allow the space to be encroached upon by the extra-regional powers. The global community is aware of the strategic importance of India in the Indian Ocean Region and recognizes the fact that the partnership with India is imperative to shape the future of the IOR. It is an obligation that India begins to look at IOR as a strategic strength which needs to

be further consolidated and complemented by building military capability with 'regional outlook' (Saji 2015).

Theoretical understanding of Sino-India relations

In the study conducted by (Misra, 1986), stated that any serious of the problems of national security of India would remain incomplete if their maritime dimension is not properly explored. As a security perspective India has many security threats in the Indian Ocean region. The broader concept of security engages political, socio-cultural, economic and defence risks. According to National Maritime Policy (NMP, 2013), maritime security is the state wherein the country's marine assets, Maritime practice, territorial integrity and coastal and other are protected, preserved and heightened." In the Indian context, Maritime is significant in the region as geography, history, ancient seafaring, shipbuilding tradition and commercial trade bind. Maritime security arises into view to be a large and sometimes unfocused concept. In fact, it has become a large task involving many entities from international, public and private sectors aiming like preserving the freedom of the seas, facilitating and defending commerce at sea maintaining good governance.

China's strategic interests in its dealings with India combine the navigation of an ancient security rivalry, the preservation of a tough economic relationship, and cooperation on arguments of meeting in global affairs. The security competition has its traditional features the border disagreement, Kashmir, Tibet, China's backing to Pakistan and its more current ones India's rise as a power with experiences elsewhere its neighbourhood such as the South China Sea, and its developing ties to the United States particularly following the nuclear deal, as well as China's own greater benefits in the Indian Ocean. India has historically seen itself as further of a complete challenging to China than vice versa, and China's attitude has determinedly been to confirm that it remains connected with Pakistan in its place. This is true of issues such as energy competition, too, which is perceived more acutely in India than in China tends to believe that it has the economic wherewithal and political clout to most of the contests for access to natural resources against Indian actors.

The major challenges of Indian maritime security relations between the three Asian nations, China, India and Myanmar are closely interlinked due to common borders, political assistance, strong historical ties, and increasing economic. Myanmar trapped between the two Asian big players and proliferates in resources, has enormous geo-political and geo-strategic importance both for China and India. As the country's leading foreign investor, China predominantly launches hydropower, mining and infrastructure projects in Myanmar in order to satisfy its energy needs. Maritime security has many challenges- maritime terrorism. Illicit

trafficking by sea like narcotics trafficking, small arms and light weapons trafficking, human trafficking, global climate change, cargo theft. In the northeastern of the Indian Ocean, there are two Coco Island, namely Great coco Island and little coco Island. One is The Great coco Island and seconds the little Coco Island.

In the post-Cold War period the Asia-Pacific has emerged as the hub of geo-strategic, global geo-political and geo-economic significance. It has even displaced the Euro-Atlantic region, which had been dominant during the Cold War (*Jecob, 2016*). The emergence of the IOR is reflected in the region's high economic development and large capacity of maritime trade. For example, APEC trade surpasses EU trade. In terms of ability of trade as well as the location of the future engines of economic development. (*Singh, 2015*). However, we should not underestimate the risks arising from regional rivalries and competition. The maritime identity of the Asia-Pacific region opens the region to traditional power based rivalries based on unresolved territorial and maritime boundary issues. There is also increasing attention to the legal and political significance of the 1982 UN Convention of the Law of the Sea, and its implementation by archipelagic states (*Bishoyi, 2015*).

Through the end of the Cold War, the speed and magnitude of change resulting from a globalising world have become defining features of die international system as witnessed by the rise of new powers in Asia (*Jecob, 2016*). This rise has caused a major flux in the regional system as China and India develop as new major global players. Similar to the beginning of a united Germany in the 19th century and a dominant United States in the 20th century, their emergence could transform the regional geopolitical landscape and the arrangement of expanding military capabilities, high economic growth, and enormous populations will be at the root of the predictable rapid rise in economic, political, and military power for both China and India (*Kaplan, 2011*).

Cooperation or Competition in Maritime Indian Ocean Region

So are we witnessing more cooperation, or more competition in maritime IOR? Indeed, the issue of cooperation or conflict between states has been a consistent theme in international relations ever since its inception as an academic discipline. From the previous analyses, it appears that with growing economic power, regional countries also desire to have greater strategic space. The desire of the regional countries for greater strategic space is exhibited by the increased development of their respective naval and nuclear deterrence capabilities. India, for example wishes to have control of its immediate maritime domain and in the seas of South Asia from the Arabian Gulf to the South China Sea and intends to do this through a blue water naval capability centred on two aircraft carrier groups. China on the other hand is

concerned with its security of access to energy supplies in the Middle East as well as an unimpeded access to trade.

Currently, China is able to project her naval forces to the first island chain, but harbours blue water intentions so as to be able to project to the second island chain and beyond. In the interim, though, the Chinese have secured a string of bases in the Indian Ocean to guarantee its access to the Gulf should the situation warrant it. Japan on the other hand has less ambitious objectives and harbours no blue water intentions. Japan's main concern is over, North Korea's nuclear intentions, especially after the launch of the Taepodong missile over its air space, which landed east of Japan. This concern has led Japan to acquire theatre missile defence capabilities both at sea with the SM-3 equipped Aegis cruisers and on land with the Patriot PAC-3s. Japan is also examining a limited power projection capability as a pre-emptive option to deny North Korea's use of its nuclear weapons. Finally, the power projection capability will also allow Japan to retake lost islands as a result of an invasion. However, despite Japanese moves to be more self-reliant in its defence, Japan is still heavily dependent on the US nuclear umbrella to maintain the strategic status quo.

Conclusions

In the Indian Ocean region India has a vital maritime interest. The Indian oceans the SCS represents a maritime crossroads and is a critical corridor for naval shipping and commercial. About the 55 per cent of India's trade in the IOR transits through the SCS region. Between the Pacific and the Indian Oceans, that India and the SCS region serve as a strategic link, whose security is vital for the smooth flow of its seaborne trade. In this region the SCS is a maritime gateway for India's increasing profile. In the year ahead the access to resources such as natural gas, oil, minerals and food is now high on the agenda of global issues to be faced. In the SCS region an increasing connection explains India's relationship between its need for resources, its strategy and for the routes and logistical systems important and necessary for transportation.

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