



## “CHINA IN THE GLOBAL HIERARCHY- AN ASIAN PERSPECTIVE”

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### ABSTRACT

*An attempt is made to understand the role of the Asian community in the arena of the global society. As the famous oft repeated words reverberate A for Asia, B for Business, C for Culture and D for Diplomacy and Development. Nearly one third of the world's humanity will participate and transform the relations between the two great countries India and China. Positively it could impact 2.5. Billion people all over the world. Asia is on the rise due to the changing environment. It has emerged as a leading trade partner in the world economy . Chinese perception about the global leadership though quite amusing can be justified given the dynamics of Asia. The present century is aptly remarked as the Asian century. Among those writers on Asian IR that are theoretically oriented, disagreement persists as to whether IR theory is relevant to studying Asia, given its origin in, and close association with, western historical traditions, intellectual discourses and foreign policy practices are should an **Asian Model** need to be developed. Further, in analysing Asian regionalism **Peter Katzenstein** comments: “Theories based on western and especially West European experience have been of little use in making sense of Asian Regionalism”. Analyst ,**Tanvi Madan** of the Washington based Brookings Institution said it was natural for the smaller SAARC states to cozy up with China. A relook at Chinese political economy and its capabilities offer us very interesting insights. The tussle between USA and China continues in the international arena as the emergence of Global leadership is vital to sustain Asian interests.*

**Key words:** **Asian Model:** Asian Model for development grew with the rise of the “tiger” economies inspite of regional turmoil of 1997 & 2008 global crisis. Viewed from an Intra-Asian development growth and development in Asian Model.

**Asian Regionalism:** A proposal for the good of Asia, and good for the world. It is a “partnership for shared prosperity.”

**Global Leadership:** Change in the global leadership after the cold war

**Political Economy:** Inter disciplinary approach between politics and economics is known as Global Political Economy . Political Economy include Robert Keohane, Robert Gilpin, Peter J. Katzenstein, and Stephen Krasner, aside from a more critical school inspired by Karl Polanyi, Susan Strange and Robert W. Cox .

**Trade Partner:** More than two countries participating in world economy as trade partners

## **Introduction**

The arrival of the Asian Century at the global level is marked by the sustained growth and dynamism of a number of East and South Asian economies, geopolitical trends, the decline of Europe and the weakening power of the USA that led some experts to herald the arrival of the Asian Century. Prior to the 19<sup>th</sup> century Asia was peripheral to globalisation and still subjected to the most during much of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Asia has now moved to global centre stage .2 ( **Footnote The Jameston Foundation- Global Research &analysis –Information without Political Agenda. “China Brief”-A Journal of Analysis and Information - Debating a Rising China’s Role in International affairs –Pub: China Brief Volume :112 Issue:24 Dec 14, 2012 by Micheale S.Chase )**

In a narrow continental perspective, there was a fashion for the term **Chindia** to refer to China and India and **aka**, the “ Two Asian Giants ”.There is an understandable visceral desire to be optimistic “things will be okay: all that the Chinese really want is to be economically successful”. The concept of Maoism has been metamorphosed into materialism.

Historically, Asia was peripheral to globalisation and was subjected to the west during the 19<sup>th</sup> century and continued during the 20<sup>th</sup> Century as well. Asia is now at the centre stage for the globe. War and peace among China, Japan and India would immensely benefit in the present century. “Re-Asianisation of Asia”- intra –Asia flows of goods, capital , people and ideas across the Asian continent , have intensified greatly since the beginning of this century as the Chinese build the New Silk Road, Economic Belt and 21<sup>st</sup> century Maritime Route, further the intensification will deepen & broaden. Within the Asian region and globally a remarkable feature is the rise of China as a mega global economic giant, geo-

political power & a nation with high industrial growth. China's global clout engulfs across the entire world Asia, East, South and West across Africa, Latin America , Australasia , Europe and North America. In the past during the 19<sup>th</sup> and the 20<sup>th</sup> century Japan was a great power until the rise of China. Posing herself as the third largest economy Japan had reconstructed her economy during the post world war –II period. The future prospects of Asian are many in the coming decades. Asia will remain at the centre of the Global Climate Change and environmental debates. Asia is positioned for a rise in income, urbanisation, consumption and development of regional and global infrastructure. Virtually, all Asian countries are involved in territorial disputes , religious, and even ethnic etc. Issues pertaining to water, energy and food security are the emerging conflicts. Nuclear Powers Iran, North Korea, Israel, Pakistan, India and China are indirectly responsible for security issues. So far no institutional frame work was evolved. The intangible rich heritage and culture of Asia and language are the foremost things that bring solidarity among the Asian nationalities. Asia is complex, confusing and contradictory. Asian narrative has been of a great fascination and would remain so for the coming generations.

**Historical background :** John Hobson's account in "The Eastern Origins of Western Civilization" is vital to explore the historical dynamics of China. Since the majority of western economic historians (liberal, conservative and Marxist) have presented historical China as a stagnant, backward, parochial society, an "oriental despotism", some detailed correctives will be necessary. It is especially important to emphasize how China , the world technological power between 1100 and 1800, made the West's emergence possible. It was only by borrowing and assimilating Chinese innovations that the West was able to make the transition to modern capitalist and imperialist economies

### **China and the emerging Asian Regionalism**

**Perspectives on Asian Regionalism** –Asian regionalism, is the term where regionalism refers to cooperative initiatives and market integration trends. The aims and objectives of regional collective action highlight some of the key regional economic cooperation efforts. To identify the major issues and challenges & analyse the perspectives for creating a region and a wide economic community in the long run. Asian regionalism has certain striking features which are distinct from the so called European Union.

Successful regional collective action requires leadership that in turn builds upon strong capabilities in terms of political legitimacy and financial resources. Although the USA and

Japan could have been materially capable of providing leadership and direction they lacked political legitimacy. At the same time, large and diverse countries such as India, the PRC and Indonesia could have had enough legitimacy in leading a pan regional movement but they lacked the needed resources.

According to **Amitav Acharya** ASEAN as an institution have played a fundamental role in preventing Asia from degenerating into hegemonic orders and foresees an increasing importance of ASEAN as a group to move Asia's overall regional agenda. He suggests that as the Indian's and the People's Republic of China economies continue to grow at a sustained pace, they could eventually possess both the resource capability, needed to lend the regional process together with legitimacy. But, the old time rivalry between the PRC and India and their enormous social and political challenges domestically could prevent their emergence as regional leaders for the provision of collective goods, suggesting in turn that ASEAN remains the most suitable candidate to lead Asia's integration.

**3 Footnote Source : “The Political Economy of Asian Regionalism” by Giovanni Capannelli and Masahiro Kawai(editors ) Asian Development Bank Institute – Springer , 2014 –ISBN 9784431545675, page Number 1 & 2**

In the years ahead, China is likely to account for between one third and one half of growth in global incomes, trade and commodity demand and its significance will only increase as its share of the world economy rises. An interesting phase in the world economy may be linked to the evolution of the Chinese economy, Chinese president Xi Jinping has rightly called for a “new type of great power relations”. **4 Footnote (The world including China is unprepared for the rise of China by Lawrence Summers November, 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015 source – article source )**

**China's role in SAARC** : Presently, Australia, China, European Union and United States of America are the observers of SAARC club. China is currently projected as an aspirant of SAARC membership. **5 (Footnotes China's Role in SAARC, Nov 20<sup>th</sup> , 2014 by Tanvi Madan)**

However following arguments are raised:

- i) External influence in South Asia was to the dislike of India. Membership in SAARC may deprive India of her preeminent position.
- ii) Nepal, Pakistan and Srilanka support the full-fledged membership of China as an economic player in the region.

- iii) A large Asian country v.i.z. China can minimise the role of India or may be strategically be opposite to India's interest given the geopolitical situation.
- iv) A few support Chinese membership in SAARC. They note that the region and the Sino-Indian relationship could benefit from Chinese membership .Since, South Asian countries benefit bilaterally in a way that excludes India.
- v) Sino-Indian relations and potential threats limiting SAARC's effectiveness and activities as India-Pak has already done.



**China in the World:** At the dawn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century China is known as a rising global power with great ambitions but fragile in many ways. In the upcoming millennial generations, China is witnessing the rise of population where single children are common. The demographic transitions may impact her stature globally. The essence of China today can be aptly summed up as “rising “, “global”, “fragile” and “powerful”. A rising Global power is beyond doubt virtually, it is present all over the world. It has a growing military arsenal and ambitions to expand. The South China Sea and increasingly territorial disputes on

various issues with Taiwan, Hongkong and the European Union. China is still under a totalitarian system under the rule of the Communist Party.

**Human Rights & China:** China has to deal with Human rights problems despite the progress in the past 30 years. The Chinese government doesn't like foreign countries to criticise China especially its human rights record. The basic Human Rights of ordinary citizens are still not well protected in China. According to the UN Secretary, "clearly China is on the rise", further Mr Ban Ki Moon said, "its transformation has been profound. Its influence is increasingly global. Its power is real". But, Mr Ban added, "with this remarkable progress comes great expectations and great responsibilities. As we move forward, we recognise that achieving the shared goals of human rights around the world is more than an inspiration, it is a foundation of peace and harmony in our modern world." So too is respect for freedom of expression and the protection of its defenders," he said in a pointed reference to China's broad censorship. China also should commit to the common values that unite us.

**Challenges for Chindia:** Reassessing the developmental issues in the multilateral forums like BRICS, The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, World trade Organisation.

- To manage the relationship with China, this is likely to begin immediately.
- Chinese strategy may enable her to be the primary beneficiary.
- Indian representatives have to be more vigilant and pursue their own negotiations.
- Imaging a confident India without any ambivalence as a rising power in the world.
- The equation between India & China is clearer. China is definitely stronger economically and militarily than India. However, a hesitant India can never grow.
- One important development between India and China relates to Rajiv Gandhi's visit to Beijing in 1988 .China evinced keenness on developing the relationship with India without working to resolve the border issue immediately. India and China aspire to be on the top. All this should be done with finesse, ensuring it does not spite China directly.

Ultimately, there is an understandable visceral desire to be optimistic "things will be okay: all that the Chinese really want is to be economically successful". The concept of Maoism has been metamorphosed into materialism.

**Future perceptions of China –India:** Shyam Sarna a former foreign secretary and currently chairman of the National Security Advisory Board have called for India to manage relations with China 'with prudence but firmness '. An air force chief described the way forward as "play cool and continue to develop capabilities."

**Sheela Bhadra kumar** is of the view that “India needs to adopt multipronged strategy to tackle the dragon’s moves. India has to build trust and improve communication with China. It needs to increase political, economic and even military cooperation with China on bilateral, regional and multilateral levels. Instead of getting drawn into process of LAC clarification, India and China should move boldly to settle the boundary dispute. Simultaneously, India will have to be patiently ready to compete with China because in international politics you have either to speak as an equal or from a position of strength to be heard. Therefore, India needs to increase its military preparedness and strength to ward of any misadventure from the Chinese side. It has to tenaciously develop infrastructure in border area. It needs to consolidate and expand development activities in our border regions”<sup>6</sup>(Footnote **World Focus ISSN2230-8458 August , 2016 Special Issue “India and Neighbours ”**).

**Structural Weakness :** There are two other structural weaknesses undermining China ’s rise as a world power. This includes the highly ‘Westernized’ intelligentsia which has uncritically swallowed US economic doctrine about free markets while ignoring its militarized economy. These Chinese intellectuals parrot the US propaganda about the ‘democratic virtues’ of billion-dollar Presidential campaigns, while supporting financial deregulation which would have led to a Wall Street takeover of Chinese banks and savings.

**Conclusion :** President Xi Jinping of China visited India in September 2014 and he remarked that China and India should be ‘express trains’ driving regional development as well as ‘twin anchors’ of regional peace. When China and India join hands for cooperation, it will benefit not only the two countries but also the entire Asia and the world at large.