



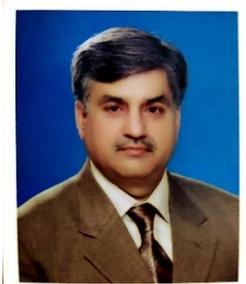
**NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF MODERN LANGUAGES
(NUML), ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN**

Online Internship Program; Evolving China in the Modern World

Analysis Paper Group 3 Week 1

**"Culture: Key Player in Enhancing Sino-Pak
Bilateral Ties"**

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Sample Paper Already Published by CGSS

Abstract

Civilizations are the historical legacy of the nations, which promote people-to-people contacts, foster cultural dialogue and understanding, and promote peace through exchange of norms and values. China has a rich history of five thousand years old civilization, which has been passed from the generations contributing to its rich culture and strong traditions of helping others and befriending everyone. Despite invasions, humiliations and sufferings, China has maintained a unique focus of serving the humanity through its development and creating the community of shared destiny and future. This analysis paper is original contribution in unveiling the saga of Chinese culture and how it has shaped the strategic culture of China. The article explores the role of culture in ever flourishing Pakistan -China bilateral relations.



Analytical Discourse on the Trajectory of Cultural Assimilation between China and Pakistan

Despite the fact that Pakistan got independence in 1947 and People’s Republic of China (PRC) was established in 1949, yet both countries have interlinked roots of civilization, when traced back to the ancient civilizations. The Gandhara, Taxila, Harappa and Mohenjodaro belong to Indus Valley Civilizations, which thrived on the lower basin of Indus River with its origin dating back to five thousand years.¹ It is worth noting that the water flow of Indus River originates from Tibetan mountains of China. Similarly, the history of Chinese Civilization can be traced back to the upper basin of the Yellow River, therefore, both these civilizations had long-term influence on the modern

¹ Dr Ahmad Rashid Malik, “The Sino-Pakistan Cultural Cooperation,” 1, accessed October 29, 2020, <https://www.hilal.gov.pk/eng-article/the-sino-pakistan-cultural-cooperation/OTYy.html>.

advancements like scientific discoveries and architecture.² In the 2nd century, the Buddhism was introduced in China in Gandhari language and literature.³ Gandhari language was closely associated to Sanskritii. The prominent Chinese scholars namely Fa Xian, Xuan Zang and Yijing in the 4th and 7th century respectively arrived in Taxila university and other Buddhist sites in Peshawar and Dergai itinerant along the ancient Silk Route.⁴ The research discovers many similarities between Chinese and Pakistani civilizations and no competition or contention was ever developed in the past history between Yellow River and Indus Valley civilizations and instead these were a great source of stimulation and communication. The cross-cultural integration was never a problem or a barrier in advancing bilateral relations and enhancing people to people contacts. The ancient Silk Route with the old history of some 2500 years provided the means of barter trade and exchange of culture, which still reminds us of our past associations, albeit with different notions at that time. Mohenjodaro civilization familiarized the mathematics, architecture, textiles and cotton, whereas, the civilization along Yellow River familiarized the gun powder, medicines and the paper to the world. The Chinese embraced Buddhism, which has roots in ancient India, however, later it thrived in Taxila under Gandhara Civilization. Such religious leanings also influenced Japanese archipelago and Korean Peninsula with Confucius Thoughts in 8th century. Similarly, Islam was introduced to China through the gateway of ancient Silk Route in 7th century from Xinjiang to Xian, where it thrived in



² Rabeea Khalid and Young ISSI Professional, “China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Should Be Supported by People to People Contacts,” 2014, 3.

³ Yao Jing, “Colourful Cultural Exchanges between China and Pakistan,” *Daily Times*, May 31, 2018, sec. Pakistan, 3.

⁴ PRC Consulate Karachi, “Survey on China-Pak Cultural Exchanges & Cooperation,” October 29, 2020, 1, <http://karachi.china-consulate.org/eng/whjy/t264642.htm>.

later years and have very strong affiliations with full religious liberties even today for the Muslims living in these regions.

After the establishment of formal diplomatic relations between Pakistan and People's Republic of China in 1951, both countries accorded highest priority to promote economic and cultural relations as fundamental principles of bilateral relations.

Chairman Mao Zedong during his inaugural interaction with first Pakistani Ambassador Major General N.A.M. Raza, during the credentials presenting ceremony on 12 November 1951, highlighted the importance of cultural exchanges between China and Pakistan.⁵ Similar sentiments were



conveyed by Premier Zhou Enlai during his speech at Pakistan Embassy Peking on 14 August 1954. In a radio broadcast message on 29 January 1956, Madam Soon Ching-ling, the Vice Chairperson of the Standing Committee of National People's Congress highlighting the importance of civilizational exchanges between China and Pakistan emphasized that "the ancient civilization in the lower valley of the River Indus and Chinese culture in the upper Yellow River basin thrived at about the same time. Our two countries share long cultural heritage". China and Pakistan signed Cultural Agreement on 25 March 1965 and a follow up to that Chinese Arts and Cultural Troupe has visited Pakistan several times and reciprocal visits paid by their Pakistani counterparts. The spirit has been carried forward since then and today our cultural ties have been elevated from "All Weather Friends" to "Iron Brothers".⁶

There have been consistent efforts by two brotherly countries to also promote exchange programs and interactions in education, languages and people to people interactions,

⁵ Dr Raja Muhammad Khan, "PROSPECTS OF SINO-PAK RELATIONSHIP," *Marghalla Papers* XV, no. II (2011): 4.

⁶ Dawn com | Naveed Siddiqui, "Iron Brothers': China, Pakistan Agree to Safeguard Common Interests, Strengthen Cooperation in All Areas," *DAWN.COM*, August 21, 2020, sec. Pakistan, 7.

especially the youth. In 2007, the first five years ‘Youth Exchange Program’ was initiated. According this programs, fully funded visits of 500 Pakistani youth were conducted under the auspices of the Chinese Government and 500 Chinese youth visited Pakistan on reciprocal basis. Building on to the youth exchange program, today, substantial number of Pakistani students are studying in universities and colleges in China in multi-disciplinary fields on self-financed and scholarship basis. It is significant to express that Urdu-Chinese dictionary was first drafted by Professor Kong Julian, Head of Urdu Department at Peking University. On 19



May 2014, Pakistani President Mr Mamnoon Hussain during its launching ceremony at Fudan University emphasized that “the first Urdu-Chinese dictionary has reinforced his optimism for improving assimilation of distinct languages and cultures.” Another milestone in cultural exchange is the establishment of Confucius Institutes in Pakistan, where National University of Modern Languages (NUML) at Islamabad

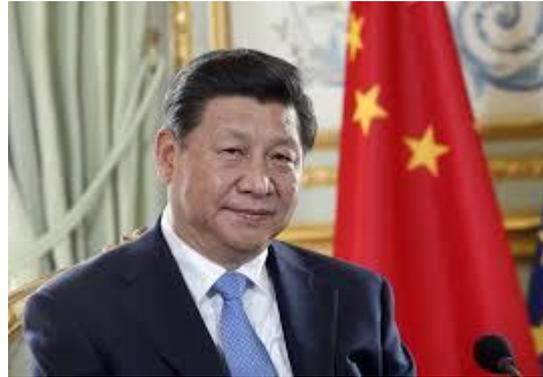


has the unique distinction of housing the biggest and oldest institute.⁷ Chinese language is now getting fast popularity as a preference foreign language and is taught in most schools in Pakistan today. Similarly, there are four Pakistan Study Centers in Chinese universities at Peking, Tsinghua, Fudan and Sichuan University. Similarly, Area Study Centers on China

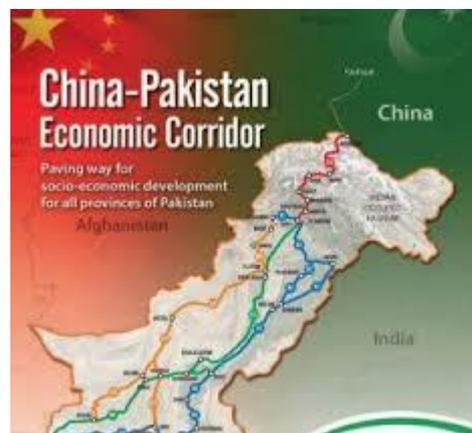


⁷ Mao Siwei, “Speech at Inauguration of Confucius Institute at NUML, by Mao Siwei, DCM, Chinese Embassy in Islamabad, on 9 April, 2007,” April 9, 2007, 1, <https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/ce/cepk/eng/sgxx2/t309964.htm>.

have also been established in various universities across Pakistan. It is heartening to express that our education alignment which was generally in the western camp has now to a great degree tilted towards East, especially China. President Xi Jinping graciously announced the establishment of Chinese Cultural Center at Islamabad during his visit to Pakistan in 2015, which was enthusiastically responded by Pakistan.⁸ Huge opportunity exists for cooperation in cultural exchange and people to people contacts. The joint conferences, seminars are also arranged as regular feature on multi-dimensional subjects. This current Internship with the joint collaboration of CGSS and CUC is testimony of this fact. At the people to people level, there are many non- governmental associations, which provide readymade platform for enhancing cultural cooperation.



China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is the latest endeavor in exchanging the norms, cultural values and patterns of societies.⁹ Cultural relations between China and Pakistan have strengthened over a period of time. President Xi Jinping, stated at the inaugural ceremony of CPEC, that cultural exchanges between the ‘iron brothers’¹⁰ have received new impetus and both countries have embarked on a journey for comprehensive cultural exchange.¹¹ Indeed CPEC contains



⁸ Adnan Hameed, “5th Anniversary Celebrations of Establishment of China Cultural Center in Pakistan,” *Modern Diplomacy*, April 29, 2020, sec. Arts and Culture, 3.

⁹ Yao Jing, “Looking Forward to a New Chapter of China-Pakistan Friendship,” January 2, 2020, 1, <http://pk.chineseembassy.org/eng/zbqx/t1729328.htm>.

¹⁰ Yao Jing, “Iron Brothers,” *The Express Tribune*, April 10, 2018, sec. Opinion, 6.

¹¹ Xi Jinping, “President Xi Jinping Delivers Important Speech at Pakistan’s Parliament Entitled ‘Building a China-Pakistan Community of Shared Destiny to Pursue Closer Win-Win Cooperation,’” April 21, 2015, 1,

huge potentials of convergence of civilizations.¹² Prime Minister Imran Khan's interactions with Chinese leadership during his visits to Beijing highlight the policy priorities of current government to carry forward the special status of relations with



China to ever increasing pedestal, where CPEC can prove as catalyst in ever enduring bonds of relations.

Conclusion

The all-weather friendship between Pakistan and China is manifested in cultural exchange programs, which has brought the people of two countries closer to each other.

The trajectory of cultural understanding and exchange of two great Asian civilizations is on the steady rise, irrespective of changes in geo-political and geo-strategic environments in our region. It is



widely appreciated that People-to-People contact between Pakistan and China is also progressing very well with every passing day. With the introduction of CPEC, the bilateral relations are developing in multiple areas and it is cherished that the process of people-to-people contacts will be have enormous room for future cooperation.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/topics_665678/xjpdjbstjxgsfwbfdnxycxyfldrhyhwlyhy60zjnhd/t1257288.shtml.

¹² Andrew Korybko, "CPEC Is Crucial to the Convergence of Civilizations," May 14, 2019, 2, <https://news.cgtn.com/news/3d3d674e31516a4e34457a6333566d54/index.html>.

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