

THEORETICAL ANALYSIS ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF CHINESE POLICY TOWARDS SOUTH ASIA

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The main objective of this research paper is to provide a theoretical interpretation for the Chinese policy towards South Asia and its impact on the South Asian countries and how they respond to Chinese presence in the region. As a specific objective it is also expected to explain implications of China and South Asia relationship to the United States of America and its responses to this relationship. The data will be analyzed by synthesizing of a number of theoretical perspectives. The use of different theoretical approaches in explaining the China and South Asia relationship as well as the responses of the United States of America towards this relationship provides the novelty of this research. Therefore the main research problem is to find out the applicability of synthesizing different theoretical traditions in explaining the Chinese policy towards South Asia and its implications. The existing theories are used to interpret data as for the purpose of explaining the behavior of regional and international actors in world politics. The data triangulation method will be used to gather data from various secondary sources such as research articles, reports, newspapers, speeches and interviews given by policy makers and qualitative content analysis will be used for the purpose of data analysis. It is required to analyze both the domestic and systemic level factors pertaining to China and South Asia relationship to provide a comprehensive explanation. China threat theory and the peaceful rise concept as well as domestic political analysis of the South Asian countries along with systemic level explanation will be used as the main theoretical concepts. The domestic political analysis on many of the South Asian countries provide the incentives for them to bandwagon with China for economic prosperity and certain countries like Sri Lanka indicated more inclination towards China to avoid the pressures coming from the western powers on issues pertaining to human rights and other humanitarian issues. The Indian, Chinese and the American strategic aspirations over the region had created a competition among these nations and the smaller states in the region attempt to obtain maximum benefits from this triangulation. Though China has been considered as a threat by the west it has to be noted in case of South Asia it is still questionable to assert that the smaller states would allow any military presence by the China on their soil and also the strength of India in counter balancing the Chinese efforts on that behalf mattered a lot.

Keywords: South Asia, China threat theory, Peaceful rise, Neorealism, Domestic politics.

Introduction

As per the main research objective of this paper it was expected to provide a theoretical explanation for the Chinese policy towards South Asia and it has been decided to use three main analysis including the domestic analysis, Systemic analysis and China Threat theory and the Peaceful Rise . The domestic analysis determined to use Robert Putnam's two level analysis and for the systemic level analysis