

## CONTEXTUALISING CHINESE STRATEGIC FORESIGHT IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS:

### Examining 'One Belt One Road' Policy

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#### ABSTRACT

The primary objective of this paper is to trace the Chinese strategic manoeuvres in the context of strategic foresight for the development of its One Belt One Road Policy (OBOR). The study has highlighted that ancient Chinese dynasties had the farsightedness to securitize the trade routes for its economic development. Policies with similar objectives were adopted by the subsequent Chinese leadership. Such is a visionary approach adopted by China that the coming decades will herald an era of Chinese economic and security dominance in the South and Central Asian region.

The study has been divided into different parts, the first, which deals with the brief introduction regarding the China's approach towards the world. The second section deals with the historical analysis of the strategic initiatives taken by the ancient Chinese dynasties. The third part of the article dwells on the importance of the Central Asian region for Beijing and its strategic economic

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manoeuvres in the Central Asian region and in the process the paper also offers a brief description regarding the importance of Asia in 21<sup>st</sup> century. The final portion of the paper discusses about the One Belt, One Road, policy and an attempt has been made to analyse the strategic interests of China. This important constituent of strategic foresight of first, the development of the trade routes through various phases of Beijing's diplomatic and military history; and second, the securitization of the same has been virtually absent in the other countries. Thus, one can finally conclude that China has been a master player in the realm of international relations.

*Key Words:* Chinese strategic, Foreign Policy, One Belt One Road Policy etc.

#### INTRODUCTION

In international relations most of the developments with regard to diplomacy are bound to follow a pattern of identifying potential partners and implementing policies to achieve the same. Some of them include high level exchanges, annual summits etc. However, globalisation on the one hand has brought about interconnectivity across the globe along with rapid scientific advancements. On the other hand, it has induced complexity and in turn compels the governments to decrease their response time to a variety of issues such as a terrorist attack, outbreak of epidemics, and, also taking immediate fiscal measures whenever there is a decrease or an increase in the oil prices. All these responses require a significant proportion of strategic foresight.

In the sphere of international relations, certain developments have brought about a "game change" at the level of conduct of diplomacy and implementation of the foreign policy objectives. Some of the examples which can be categorised as "game change" in international politics are the breakup of the erstwhile Soviet Union, 9/11 attacks and the rise of the ISIS in the Middle East. As nation states scrambled to carve out issue specific foreign policies wherein they successfully achieve their vital national interests, an immediate demand of a separate subfield of 'strategic foresight' in international politics has clearly emerged.

Policies under 'strategic foresight' will usually involve assessing the emerging global trends, designing innovative foreign

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