



75 Years of China—Pakistan Relations

SPECIAL EDITORIAL FEATURE

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FRIENDS INDEED!

China-Pakistan relationship is strategically significant, and any attempt to disrupt or undermine the cooperation is bound to fail.

BY YANG YUNDONG, CHINESE CONSUL GENERAL, KARACHI



The year 2025 marks the 76th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. China has achieved remarkable economic and social development over the past 76 years, especially after the reform and opening-up policy in 1978. China has maintained an average annual economic growth rate of 8.9% for 45 consecutive years, increasing its economic scale by 47 times. It has become the world's largest industrial manufacturer, trading nation, foreign exchange reserve holder, and second-largest economy. China has built the world's most complete modern industrial system, even though the country realized industrialization in just a few decades, which took several centuries

for developed Western countries.

If you have been to China, especially big cities like Beijing and Shanghai, you would be deeply impressed by China's urban development, high-speed railways, highways, bridges, modern infrastructure, as well as advancements in aerospace, information technology, and new energy development. At the same time, China's system and capacity for governance have been further modernized. China has now put in place the world's biggest systems of education, social security, medical care, and community-based institutions of democracy, has become one of the safest and most orderly countries in the world, and the happiness index of the Chinese people is constantly improving.

However, everything must be viewed from both sides, and China is still far from being a well-developed country. Currently, China's per capita income remains relatively low, only 17% of the level of the United States, 25% of Germany, and 34% of Japan. China's development is also unbalanced and inadequate. In terms of regional development, the eastern coastal areas of China are relatively well-developed, but the vast central, western, and north-eastern regions are less developed. From the perspective of rural development, China's urbanization rate is currently about 66%, lower than the approximately 80% in developed countries. In 2022, rural disposable income was only 40.9% of that of urban residents and less than 10% of rural

residents in the United States, Japan, and other developed countries.

While China's economy is vast, even a large total divided by a population of 1.4 billion is small. Whether considering labour productivity, per capita industrial value added, car ownership per thousand people, per capita education spending, medical expenditure, or social security expenditure, China still lags far behind developed countries.

As a large developing country and a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, China has made positive and significant contributions to world peace and development over the past several decades. In the 1960s and 1970s, despite its limited wealth and resources, China helped build major infrastructure projects like the Karakoram Highway and Tanzania-Zambia Railway, vividly illustrating the "true friendship in times of need" between China and Pakistan and other countries.

From 1979 to 2023, China contributed 24.8% annually to global economic growth, ranking first globally. China has taken the lead in achieving the United Nations Millennium Development Goals and has contributed over 70% to global poverty reduction. As the largest contributor to the G20's Debt Service Suspension Initiative, China accounts for over 40% of international debt relief. China is now the second-largest contributor to the UN budget and the United Nations Peacekeeping Forces. China is actively advancing a low-carbon transformation and is a key force in global green development and addressing climate change.

In 2013, President Xi Jinping proposed the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), and more than 150 countries and over 30 international organizations have signed the BRI cooperation agreements with China. Over the past 10 years, under the principles of "extensive consultation," "joint contribution," and "shared

benefit," the BRI has mobilized nearly \$1 trillion in investments worldwide, initiated over 3,000 cooperative projects, and created 420,000 jobs for BRI partner countries.

According to the World Bank, the BRI has led to a 4.1% increase in trade, a 5% increase in foreign investment, and a 3.4% rise in GDP for low-

China is a major contributor to UN peacekeeping operations, promoting international peace and security

income countries. By 2030, the BRI is expected to generate 1.6 trillion U.S. dollars in global benefits annually, accounting for 1.3% of global GDP, helping nearly 40 million people eliminate poverty worldwide.

China is one of the most peace-loving countries in the world. For a long time in human history, China was one of the most powerful countries in the world, but it has left no record of colonization and invasion of other countries. China's adherence to the path of peaceful development is an inheritance and development of the peace-loving cultural tradition of the Chinese nation over thousands of years.

Since its founding, China has remained firm in pursuing an independent foreign policy of peace and has always been committed to emphasizing its foreign policy goals of upholding world peace and promoting common development. Even as China grows stronger today, it has no intention of turning itself into an American-Soviet-style super-hegemony. China does not pursue the path of great power rivalry or follow the traditional approach of emerging nations challenging established powers. It does not engage in colo-

nialism or enslave underdeveloped countries. It does not undermine the existing international political structure, challenge the international order, or pursue spheres of influence. Instead, China advocates for peaceful coexistence and strives to live in harmony and develop with all countries worldwide.

Among the world's major countries, China has the best track record in terms of peace and security. It is the only major nation that has enshrined its adherence to peaceful development in its Constitution. In recent years, China has been making unwavering efforts to peacefully resolve international and regional hot-spot issues. China has endeavored to maintain peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula, promote reconciliation between Iran and Saudi Arabia with positive results, and make great efforts to reach a comprehensive, just, and lasting solution to the Palestinian Question and the political settlement of the Ukraine crisis.

No matter how international and regional situations evolve, China will continue to advance high-quality development under the strong leadership of the Communist Party of China to build a great country and move toward national rejuvenation on all fronts through Chinese modernization.

In July this year, the third plenary session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China made systematic plans to deepen reform further comprehensively and promote Chinese modernization, making it clear that the overall goal of further deepening reform comprehensively is to continue to improve and develop the socialist system with Chinese characteristics and advance the modernization of the nation's governance system and governance capacity.

The plenary has put forward more than 300 consequential reform measures about building a high-standard socialist market economy, advancing

high-quality economic development, promoting high-standard opening up, improving the people's quality of life, and creating a beautiful country. It also clearly stated that these reform tasks must be completed by 2029, the 80th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. Our goal is to realize socialist modernization by 2035 and, from 2035 through the middle of this century, to build China into a great modern socialist country that is prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced, harmonious, and beautiful.

Recently, President Xi Jinping attended the 31st APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Peru and the 19th G20 Summit in Brazil. He once again sent a clear message on firmly upholding multilateralism at this historical crossroads and advancing global governance with Chinese wisdom, showcasing China's image as a responsible major country that is fair and just, courageous and accountable, open and inclusive.

In recent years, under the joint guidance and promotion of President Xi Jinping and Pakistani leaders, all-weather strategic cooperation between China and Pakistan has continued to deepen. Not long ago, Premier Li Qiang paid an official visit to Pakistan and attended the 23rd Meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. Only four months after Prime Minister Shehbaz visited China, this visit underscores China's strong support for devel-

oping China-Pakistan relations.

The Pakistan-China relationship is strategically significant, and any attempt to disrupt or undermine Pakistan-China cooperation is bound to fail. The two sides will continuously strengthen practical cooperation across various fields, jointly upgrade the CPEC, and ac-



celerate the construction of major projects in railways, highways, and ports. Following the important common understanding between leaders of the two countries, the two sides are ready to advance the upgrade of ML-1 and have agreed to build the Karachi-Hyderabad section. China and Pakistan will work together to refine and optimize the construction plan of the Karachi-Hyderabad section and formulate financing and implementation plans that are feasible and sustainable.

The two countries will actively seek financial support for the Karakoram Highway (Raikot-Thakot) realignment project under the terms of the project's Framework Agreement and facilitate its early execution and will also speed up the development of the auxiliary infrastructure of the Gwadar Port, steadily attract more cargo shipments to the port, find a solution to inadequate water and power supply

at an early date, accelerate the development of the port's industrial zone, and solidly enhance connectivity between the port and other parts of Pakistan. The New Gwadar International Airport project, aided by China, has already been completed.

China supports its companies investing in Pakistan's Special Economic Zones, which align with the market and commercial principles. The Pakistani side is expected to improve its business environment and provide a favourable policy framework for Chinese investment.

China will continue to support Pakistan in improving the well-being of its people, aiming to ensure that development benefits reach all regions and communities. Under the CPEC Working Group on Socio-Economic Cooperation framework, the two sides will strengthen their cooperation, particularly in healthcare, agriculture, education, climate response, and disaster prevention, while continuing to promote projects that improve people's livelihoods.

China firmly supports Pakistan's efforts in combating terrorism and asks Pakistan to take targeted security measures to comprehensively safeguard the safety and security of Chinese personnel, projects, and institutions, to create a safe and secure environment for cooperation between our two countries. ■

Content of this article is based on the speech given by the Consul General of the People's Republic of China in Karachi (Nov 2024).



CHINA AT 75

The history of China from ancient times to the present is well documented because of the written Chinese language.

BY DR JUNAID AHMAD

The Great Chinese Civilization

Chinese civilization, over 5,500 years old, arose alongside those of Egypt, Mesopotamia, and the Indus Valley. While those ancient civilizations and their languages disappeared, the Chinese civilization and language both written and spoken—continue to flourish. The written Chinese language has preserved knowledge on governance, trade, agriculture, medicine, education, and diplomacy for millennia.

China became a unified country in 226 BC when the North conquered the South, making it perhaps the oldest continuous state in the world. Despite invasions by the Mongols, British, French, Americans, Germans, Dutch, Italians, and Japanese, China has never itself invaded another nation. Nor did it ever institutionalize slavery, unlike many ancient and modern empires.

Chinese Wisdom and Contributions

Chinese philosophy stresses win-win relations, sustainability in dealings between buyer and seller, giver and taker. China's defensive posture in history reflects this ethos; it seeks peace with neighbors like Taiwan and the Philippines despite U.S. provocations.

China pioneered agricultural methods such as terracing and crop rotation, which enhanced global food security. Its long-established **Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM)**, now integrated with modern technologies—CT scans, MRIs, robotics—combines best practices



from allopathy, homeopathy, herbal, and ayurvedic traditions. China today is the world's largest producer of diagnostic equipment and pharmaceutical ingredients.

China has also contributed to **infrastructure and social development** in Africa and Latin America. A major seaport in Peru was recently inaugurated by President Xi Jinping, and China continues investing across Central America and the Caribbean.

The Belt and Road Initiative

Launched in 2013 by President Xi, the **Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)** has invested over USD 1.5 trillion in 150 member countries within just twelve years—USD 1 trillion from China's private sector and the rest from state-owned enterprises and loans. Except in Pakistan, where government

inefficiencies hampered progress, BRI projects have largely succeeded. For comparison, the U.S. and allies invested about USD 100 billion globally between 1946 and 2024.

China champions **multilateralism** through active roles in the UN Security Council, G20, BRICS, and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. It is also a leading contributor to UN peacekeeping missions. A recent example of its diplomatic influence was mediating peace between Saudi Arabia and Iran, and encouraging unity among Palestinian factions.

China's Tumultuous Past

China's history is uniquely well-preserved due to its written language. The **"Century of Humiliation"** (19th–early 20th centuries) saw the First and Second Opium Wars (1839–42, 1856–60) with Britain and France

and the **Eight-Nation Alliance** invasion (1900–01).

In 1912, **Sun Yat-sen** led a revolution overthrowing the Qing dynasty and founding the Republic of China. Civil war between **Chiang Kai-shek's** Nationalists and the **Communist Party of China (CPC)** followed until 1949, when **Chairman Mao Zedong** proclaimed the People's Republic of China (PRC).

Mao inherited a devastated country, its infrastructure, education, and governance in ruins. By 1964, China became a **nuclear power**, followed by a hydrogen bomb in 1968, marking its emergence as a major nation. His industrial and Five-Year Plans built a foundation for growth, though the **Cultural Revolution** caused social and human losses.

The reform Era

Deng Xiaoping, succeeding Mao in 1978, opened China's economy, creating **Special Economic Zones (SEZs)** and attracting foreign investment. Cities like Shenzhen became global industrial hubs. Subsequent leaders, **Jiang Zemin (1992–2002)** and **Hu Jintao (2002–2012)** continued this reform path, ensuring stability and continuity that propelled China to global prominence.

President Xi Jinping's Era

President Xi, born 1953, assumed office in 2013 and was re-elected in 2018 and 2023. His early **anti-corruption campaign** won popular support. Under his leadership, over **850 million people** have been lifted from poverty using targeted policies and data-driven performance systems.

The **Healthy China 2030** plan aims for universal healthcare, while initiatives like the "Double First-Class" university program and "Internet Plus Education" have expanded quality education. The "Beautiful China" campaign targets pollution reduction, and "Digital Transformation 2030" is building a digital economy powered by 5G and AI.



Mao Zedong, the founder of the People's Republic of China.



Sun Yat-sen, Leader of the Xinhai Revolution and founding father of the Republic of China.



Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China.

Xi also introduced three major global initiatives:

- **Global Development Initiative (GDI)** – launched 2021, promotes people-centered, inclusive, innovation-driven progress in harmony with nature.
- **Global Security Initiative (GSI)** – introduced 2022, advocates common, cooperative, and sustainable security, addressing cyber threats, terrorism, and climate change through UN and ASEAN frameworks.
- **Global Civilization Initiative (GCI)** – proposed 2023, encourages dialogue and mutual learning among civilizations, rejecting the "Clash of Civilizations" theory in favor of cooperation and cultural harmony.

China's Modern Achievements

China now possesses the **world's largest road network**—5.28 million km, including 169,000 km of expressways, more than the U.S., Canada, and India combined. Its **railway system** is the second-largest globally and includes over **45,000 km of high-speed rail**, serving 1.45 billion passengers annually. **Inland waterways** span 127,600 km, carrying 3 billion tonnes of freight yearly. With a **14,500 km coastline** and more than **3,000 seaports**, China is a maritime powerhouse.

Its **aviation network** includes 450 airports and 2,000 aircraft, handling around 700 million passengers annually. China also leads in

renewable energy, particularly hydro, solar, and wind power.

The telecommunications sector is vast: **173 million landlines**, **1.76 billion mobile phones**, and **1.1 billion internet users**—exceeding the U.S., Canada, India, Russia, and Brazil combined. Heavy investments in 5G, AI, and satellites have made China a global tech leader.

China tops global production in **agriculture, steel, shipbuilding, automobiles, locomotives, white goods, and electronics**. Its per-hectare agricultural output is **4.9 tonnes**, higher than Russia (4.3), Canada (4.1), the U.S. (3.9), Brazil (3.7), and India (2.6). In 2023, it produced over **50% of global shipbuilding output** and surpassed the U.S. as the largest automobile manufacturer.

Conclusion

Seventy-five years after its founding, the People's Republic of China stands as a testament to resilience, reform, and renewal. From a fragmented, war-torn nation in 1949, China has evolved into a global leader in technology, infrastructure, diplomacy, and human development. Guided by its ancient wisdom of harmony and balance, modern China continues to shape the world through cooperation, innovation, and peace. 🇨🇳

The writer is an accomplished academician, author, researcher, and prominent management consultant. He is a life member of the Karachi Council on Foreign Relations (KCFR).





75 YEARS **CHINA
PAKISTAN
FRIENDSHIP**

A pillar of the China – Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)

A 111.7km long bulkwater supply pipeline project K-IV for the people of Karachi is a flagship project of CPEC's commitment to social and livelihood development.

CHEC's involvement moves beyond mere construction.

The work being done by CHEC on the K-IV pipeline is a true demonstration of the technical expertise and dedication that the China-Pakistan partnership brings to vital infrastructure development.

Where Pakistan and China Converge for Progress

Extending far beyond economics, the Pakistan-China relationship is a partnership rooted in mutual respect, cultural exchange, and people-to-people ties

Our Journey of Sustainable Growth

Pak China Investment Company Limited (PCICL) has proudly been a trusted bridge for economic cooperation between Pakistan and China for nearly two decades. Established through a joint venture between the China Development Bank and the Ministry of Finance, Pakistan, PCICL embodies the spirit of brotherhood, cooperation, and shared progress.

Driving Economic Growth For Each Other

Backed by an equity base of PKP 25 billion and cumulative financing exceeding PKP 110 billion, PCICL has become a cornerstone of Pakistan's financial sector. Over the years, the company has actively supported more than 120 clients across diverse industries, ensuring that strategic projects receive the funding, advisory, and technical support they need to succeed. From large-scale infrastructure and energy initiatives under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to tailored financing for agriculture, manufacturing, and information technology, PCICL has enabled economic transformation.

Our consistent AAA long-term and A1+ short-term credit ratings for 11 consecutive years prove our financial resilience, strong governance, and commitment to sustainable development. By blending Chinese expertise with Pakistan's dynamic market opportunities, PCICL continues to drive progress that benefits communities, industries, and nations.

Landmark Achievements

Our landmark achievements are a testament to the enduring strength of Pakistan-China cooperation and the shared vision of progress.

PCICL's journey is marked by projects of national significance, as shown below:

Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX):

Acted as advisor and equity stakeholder alongside three leading Chinese stock exchanges in a landmark 2017 transaction that has significantly transformed Pakistan's capital market landscape.

Challenge Fashion Special

Economic Zone (SEZ): Served as advisor and lead arranger for project financing of a groundbreaking initiative in Pakistan's textile sector, set to create thousands of jobs and generate around USD 400 million annually in exports.

Deli-JW Glassware Company

Limited: Advisor, shareholder, and lead financier of Pakistan's first Pakistan-China joint-venture glassware unit, established in 2018. The facility produces high-quality glassware, driving import substitution and opening new export markets.

As we celebrate 75 years of Diplomatic Relations between the brotherly nations, PCICL reaffirms its commitment to CPEC 2.0, advancing industrial cooperation, promoting special economic zones and establishing joint ventures. By uniting Chinese expertise with Pakistan's potential, we envision a future of trust, progress, and shared prosperity.

Strategic Partnerships

As per our ongoing commitment, we continue to formalize our obligation through meaningful engagements with numerous Chinese Businesses and relevant Ministries, opening doors for investments and partnerships.



We recently executed an MOU with the Ministry of IT & Telecommunications, Government of Pakistan, during the 2nd Pakistan-China B2B Investment Conference held in Beijing, China.

The MOU was signed with the Honorable Federal Minister for IT & Telecom and witnessed by the Prime Minister of Pakistan in the presence of an august gathering of over 900 leading businesses and entrepreneurs from China and Pakistan.



This milestone underscores our commitment to fostering strategic cooperation, foreign investment, and technology-driven growth in Pakistan's IT sector, while continuing to serve as a bridge between Pakistan and China.

Strengthening Bonds Beyond Business

At PCICL, we believe that the Pakistan-China relationship extends far beyond economics. It is a partnership rooted in mutual respect, cultural exchange, and people-to-people ties.

Long Live Pak China Friendship. 

China-Pakistan Education Corridor

One particular area where Pakistan may learn from China is its vibrant technical and vocational education programs, which paved the way for China's industrial development.

BY DR MUHAMMAD ALI SHAIKH

Pakistan and China have had strategic relations since the 1960s, supplemented by economic relations since the turn of the century. However, they need to enhance their educational ties, as international experiences show that these are vital for deepening people-to-people contact through education. Pakistan and China started their educational cooperation in 1965 when they signed an agreement on cultural cooperation, including an educational component. Since then, several attempts have been made, but they have not fully utilized their potential. The fundamental reason is their highly divergent systems.

Both countries began their journeys in almost identical conditions in literacy and education at the time of their respective independence in the late 1940s. While Pakistan started its journey with a literacy rate of 16.3 percent in 1947, China's was 20 percent in 1949. From that point, the two nations moved on to two different trajectories. While China made education a cornerstone of its national development strategy, Pakistan chose other priorities.

While China spent 812.79 billion dollars on education in 2020, 4.22 percent of its GDP, Pakistan's total spending (both provincial and federal) came to just 4.75 billion dollars or 1.5 percent of its GDP. The result is that China has achieved

almost 100 percent enrolment in compulsory education, providing the best quality education. In marked contrast, Pakistan is still struggling with the poorest quality of education



and has the second-largest number of out-of-school children in the world.

Considering the pivotal role of education in national development, one could argue that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) should have initially been conceptualized as the "China-Pakistan Education Corridor," with the economic component introduced later. In today's era of scientific and technological advancement, Pakistan must, like China, shift its educational focus from myths, romanticized historical narratives, and outdated ideas to science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM) subjects. Expertise in these fields, as seen in China, can help transform Pakistan's future.

Pakistan's higher education

system is in dire straits and requires immediate reform. Chinese universities have propelled the country to the forefront of technological advancements in

diverse fields, from IT to agriculture. Pakistan can achieve similar outcomes by entrusting its higher education sector to visionary leaders with clear goals.

China's interest and investment in education soon started bearing fruit in the form of a highly developed and skilled human resource, which served as China's backbone in its economic development.

Enhanced cooperation between the two countries

would also result in deeper people-to-people contact, essential for strengthening relations between the two brotherly countries. Pakistan has much to learn from China's example in improving its education system. In fact, the economic development of a modern nation with limited natural resources, such as Pakistan and China, depends heavily on human resource development.

Therefore, Pakistan should prioritize establishing a robust, modern, and comprehensive national education system similar to China's. Vocational and technical education is crucial for a nation's agricultural, industrial, mineral, and overall socio-economic progress. Pakistan needs to reform and replace its outdated vocational education system with

a modern one that provides skills in advanced trades. Therefore, one area where Pakistan may learn from China is its vibrant technical and vocational education programs, which paved the way for China's industrial development.

I think Pakistan would benefit significantly if Pakistani youth learned the Chinese language in schools and colleges in addition to English. This would open employment opportunities for them internationally in over 150 countries, partnering in China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

A strong education system demands substantial financial investment—an investment in the future. Pakistan should follow China's lead, which allocated USD 813 billion to education in a year, by significantly increasing its education budget beyond the current meagre amount of less than five billion dollars. Most importantly, educating women is essential for national development. No modern nation can progress while neglecting half of its population. China has demonstrated that barriers to female education can be effectively removed with determined state action.

Pakistan can benefit from adopting a fair, merit-based, and aptitude-focused evaluation system, as seen in China, to guide students into disciplines suited to their natural abilities. This approach would benefit individuals and ensure that the country's youth contribute effectively to national progress. Considering the facts mentioned above, I would stress the need to enhance cooperation between China and Pakistan in the field of education, in particular. ■

The writer is a Sindh-based development communication professional and a former vice-chancellor.



Long Live China-Pakistan Friendship

China and Pakistan have great potential to strengthen bilateral cooperation in economics, trade, security, and cultural exchanges.

BY PROF. GUO XUETANG

I am Guo Xuetao from the Research Center of South Asian and Indian Ocean Studies, based at the Shanghai University of International Business and Economics in China. Recently, I spoke at the China-Pakistan Relations Dialogue, hosted by the Chinese Consul General in Karachi. In February 2018, I had the privilege of attending an international conference organized in Karachi by the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan. The conference theme was "Business Education Creating Impacts with CPEC." It was my first time in Karachi, and I still remember the conference well, including the plans and information.

In more than 60 years, China and Pakistan have made tremendous progress in jointly promoting the construction of the CPEC projects.

The two countries have always been good friends, good neighbors, and good partners, and they are officially well-known as all-weather strategic partners for cooperation. At the same time, China and Pakistan face enormous challenges in terms of relations. Firstly, the international situation in the 2020s has been changing comprehensively and profoundly, and will continue in the 2030s.

The United States is adjusting its strategies in the Middle East, Europe, and the Indo-Pacific to maintain its hegemony, bringing more military conflicts, wars, and greater power competition. Secondly, there is also



a phenomenon of power imbalance in the South Asian region. China and Pakistan need to maintain regional stability and joint development in this region.

Thirdly, terrorism and external forces are trying to undermine mutual trust and cooperation between China and Pakistan. However, China's determination to continue supporting Pakistan's economic and social development and improving people's livelihoods has not changed, and so has the unbreakable friendship between the two nations. The will to promote China-Pakistan comprehensive cooperation has not



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changed.

First, China's path to modernization studies in the 1980s developed in the first decades of this century and has formed a relatively mature set of Chinese appearances. For example, development is the fundamental principle, the key to resolving all problems China has been facing, such as social instability, poverty, environmental pollution, etc. China needs a peaceful, stable international environment and a good neighborhood environment to achieve this overall goal.

Therefore, China adheres to two major foreign relations policies. One is to insist on opening up to all countries to attract foreign investments and technology. Another is to insist on friendly neighborhood diplomacy to maintain good relations with all neighboring countries, which has provided a fundamental development opportunity for the Chinese economy.

At the same time, Chinese society continues to be stable, people's happiness index continues to increase, and national pride and identity continue to strengthen. This is the right approach to Chinese modernization. I hope it might help my Pakistani friend understand how Chinese modernization has worked in the past 40 years.

Secondly, with the development of China's path to modernization, China's national strength has also been greatly enhanced, and China can play a constructive role in international and regional affairs. For example, in the political revolution of the Israel-Palestine conflict, the Middle East crisis, and the war between Ukraine and Russia, China is proactively speaking out on behalf of many countries in the global south and developing countries. China has always pursued an independent foreign policy.

This means that China decides its position based on the rights and wrongs of regional hotspot issues. Regarding regional security affairs, China insists on using the United Nations as the leading platform for political dialogue. China

thinks that regional countries, especially neighboring countries, should play an active role.

China also insists that the people of the countries directly concerned have the right to decide the direction of their own country's destiny. China has taken the lead in resisting strategic pressure from the United States and Europe and has maintained global and regional stability and development as one of the

China and Pakistan should work together to maintain global and South Asian stability and promote bilateral economic development

primary goals of Chinese diplomacy. Thus, it is gaining recognition and support from many developing countries.

So, the recent breaks, the APEC and G20 summit meetings, are examples of China's expanding roles and influence on the international platform. Third, as I mentioned in my first point, development is the absolute principle for China and every country.

As a major power, China should shoulder the responsibility of promoting inclusive development and striving to create conditions and opportunities for people in developing countries to share the fruits of development. China's rise demonstrates that developing countries have the potential to find a modern development path that suits their own national conditions. So, over the past years, China has actively participated in constructing international organizations such as the BRICS and the AIIB and has expanded its voice in global governance.

It is worth emphasizing that these measures enhance China's competitiveness in the international market and provide valuable experience and reference for other developing countries. China is committed to

providing more institutional options for developing countries in the supply of international public goods. For example, it has put forward the BRI initiative at the global level, established a series of dialogue mechanisms at the Arab Cooperation Forum and the China-Africa Cooperation Forum, and promoted the concept of shared prosperity from the inside out.

At the same time, China has helped countries in the global south strengthen their resilience to resist risks and overcome their fragile national development predicaments. China has always been committed to promoting multilateralism and economic globalization, emphasizing that all countries should have a say in global economic policymaking and share their rightful interests. The Chinese agenda emphasizes joint participation and common development, promoting the international order to be more inclusive and fair.

The cooperation between China and Pakistan is a model of global developing countries' relations, uniting to seek peace and development, and enabling us to promote the establishment of a just and reasonable global governance system. In conclusion, China and Pakistan should work together to maintain global and South Asian stability and promote bilateral economic development. That is the most significant and fundamental common interest of both of us.

I hope Pakistan can achieve social stability and solve various problems in its development process. From this perspective, I think there is great potential for China and Pakistan to strengthen bilateral cooperation in economics, trade, security cooperation, cultural exchanges, etc. Long Live the China-Pakistan Friendship. 

Based in Shanghai, China, the writer is associated with the South Asian and Indian Ocean Studies at Shanghai University of International Business and Economics, China.



The Chinese Miracle

Pakistan had not benefited much from Chinese modernization.

BY DR ZHANG JIEGEN

Chinese modernization is a new era that offers an excellent opportunity for China-Pakistan shared development. We know that Chinese modernization has a long history and journey led by generations of outstanding Chinese leaders.

However, it only accelerated after the Chinese Communist Party implemented its reform and opening-up policy in 1978. During the last 46 years, Chinese modernization has gone through two important stages. For the fourth stage, from 1978 to 2012, though China and Pakistan enjoyed a close relationship in political, diplomatic, and strategic areas, the economic link between the two sub-partners was comparatively loose.

To be frank, Pakistan had not benefited much from Chinese modernization. In 2012, Chinese modernization entered a new era, and Chinese President Xi proposed the BRI in 2013. As the pilot project of BRI, CPEC has experienced a magnificent decade and is bound to kick off another golden decade.

Since BRI's core philosophy is shared development, Pakistan is benefiting from Chinese modernization in the new era through economic cooperation, especially CPEC. Today, Chinese modernization is still in its developing process, which emphasizes high-quality development, technology innovation, poverty alleviation, and ecological sustainability. At the same time, BRI is entering a new golden decade, and CPEC is still the pilot project for its high-quality development.

Given this background, the ongoing Chinese modernization has the potential to bring significant opportunities for China-Pakistan shared development, mainly in infrastructure development. China's focus on high-quality infrastructure aligns with Pakistan's need

for improved transportation, energy, and industrial facilities.

Chinese modernization emphasizes eco-friendly infrastructure, which could bring advanced sustainable technology to Pakistan. In terms of industrial and technology cooperation, China's



modernization drives innovations in fields like AI, renewable energy, and manufacturing.

Pakistan could benefit from technology transfer and the establishment of SEZS under CPEC. In addition, cooperation in digital technologies can promote e-commerce and smart city development in Pakistan. Regarding energy cooperation, China's push for clean energy aligns with Pakistan's growing energy needs and climate goals. Joint ventures in solar, wind, and hydropower projects could help Pakistan transition to renewable energy sources while addressing power shortages. Investment in energy-efficient technologies can reduce costs and enhance industrial productivity in Pakistan.

When it comes to trade and market expansion, as China modernizes its economy, demand for imports, particularly from regional partners, could increase. Pakistan can benefit from exporting agricultural products, textiles, and minerals to China.

In addition, China's advancements in smart agriculture and irrigation technologies can be introduced in Pakistan

to improve agricultural yields and food security. Pakistan's agricultural exports can meet China's growing demand for organic and high-quality food products.

Chinese enterprises operating in Pakistan under CPEC and other ventures create job opportunities. Collaboration in vocational training and skill development programs can align Pakistan's workforce with the needs of modern industries.

To realize the enormous potential of China-Pakistan economic cooperation, Pakistan must learn from the successful experience of Chinese modernization in three aspects. First, Pakistan needs a national nuclear strategy that prioritizes economic development. Before Deng Xiaoping, former chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, proposed Chinese forward modernization, he had one important strategy in mind: peace and development were the topical subjects of the area.

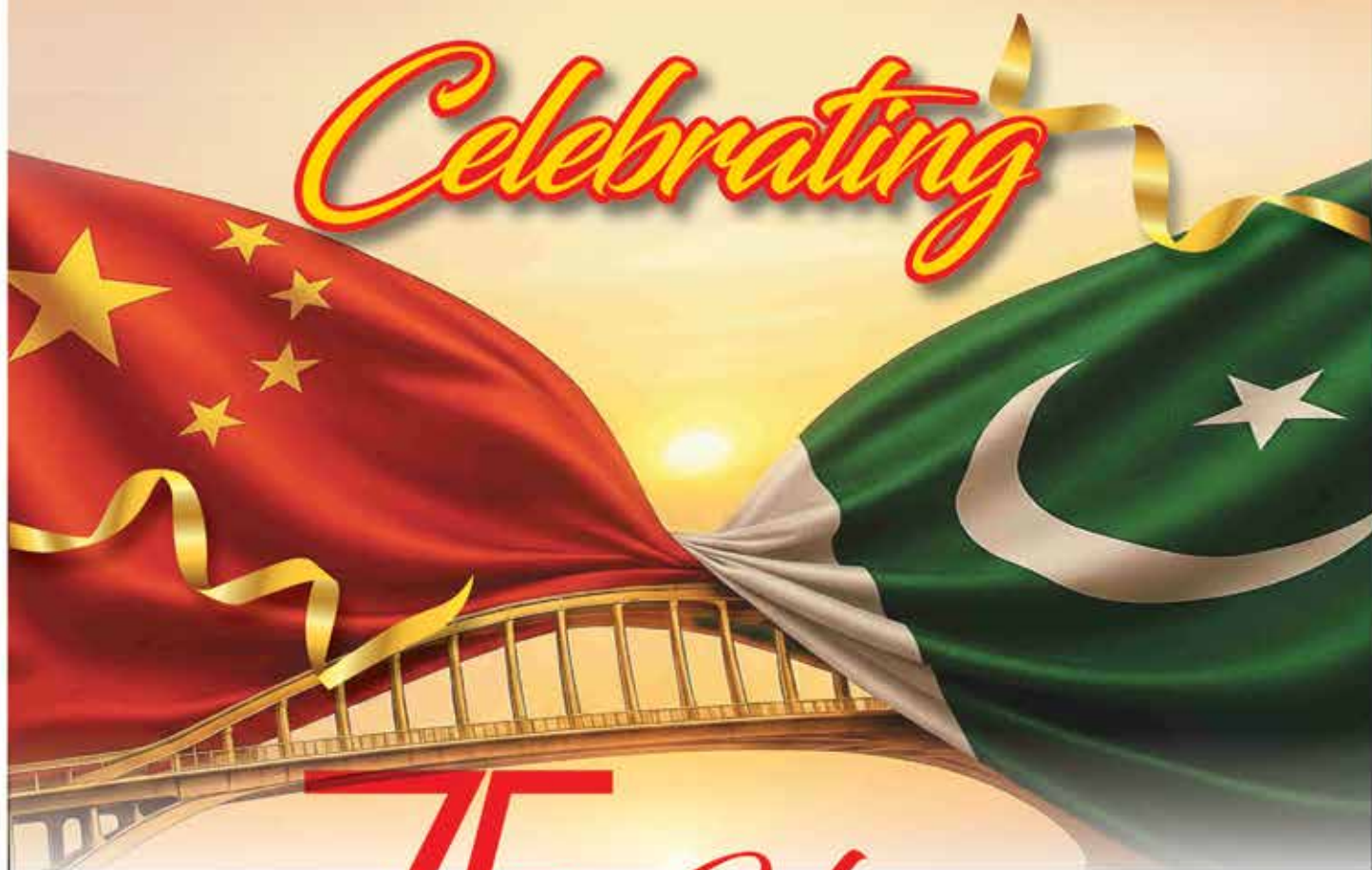
Then, he made another strategic judgment: Economic construction is the center of China. Secondly, Pakistan needs its own reform and an opening-up policy. In any society, pushing forward a successful reform is not easy.

The Chinese experience shows that the opening-up policy is used to push back the domestic reform policy. Third, development opportunities need to be pursued by yourself. Pakistani private companies and businessmen must visit China to find business opportunities and facilitate Chinese investments in Pakistan.

To make this happen, the governments of China and Pakistan should also build platforms for businessmen from both sides. **S**

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