

THE CHINA - PAKISTAN AXIS ASIA'S NEW GEO-POLITICS BY ANDREW SMALL

Reviewed by

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Abstract

Andrew Small's "The China – Pakistan Axis" published on Jan 15, 2015, is extremely well researched and highly authentic work on South Asia's geo-political environment today. Small studied and closely watched developments in South Asia ranging from peace to unrest, from economy to foreign relations and from regional to global interests. Building of China – Pakistan axis has been a development of gigantic proportions but strangely it went unnoticed internationally. The story of China Pakistan relations is wrought with paradoxes and ironies but it has never sagged in sincerity and friendship. The book comprised seven exclusive Chapters, a gripping prologue and a revealing epilogue. Its study points out that developments in South Asia in recent times are bound to have telling effect on the course of history in coming times. Asia's political strife, India's monumental rise and progress, regional nuclear equation, mapping of mineral resources, ports and pipelines, prospective energy corridor newer formation of alliances and power blocs elude to South Asia becoming a global hub with regard to convergence of political interests and economic and strategic stakes. Amazingly China – Pakistan relations despite being intriguing marked by spurts of tensions and misgivings have never declined in mutual trust, goodwill and strength. Small rightly points out that recently China – Pakistan nexus has moved forward in historical strides while this strategic development has been overlooked by World Powers for long time.

China sees its chances of becoming global naval power by reaching the warm waters of Indian Ocean and by reviving the old silk route to Middle East and Europe. In the shadow of the Red Mosque sets the stage for encompassing major geo-strategic developments to follow. Friendship forged by war is an interesting account of Pakistan – China friendship necessitated led by belligerency and military in the region. Re-hyphenating India highlights India's dream of emerging as unquestioned regional Super Power by new shifts and alignments. China too jumps in to resolve the conundrum of terror. Trade across the roof of the world highlights the growth and scope of CPEC as a

game changer. Tea with the Taliban is an interesting chapter about how China moves in to address terror issues in the region. Lord make them leave but not yet covers blows to Al- Qaida by American troops, likely American withdrawal and its lingering presence amid China's conciliatory overtures. The epilogue titled the Dragon meets the Lion covers growing closeness between China and Pakistan on one hand and that of US and India on the other. The visits of high level dignitaries to India and Pakistan provide a dig at the future developments to follow. The book extracts its content from small's extensive interviews, his close study of events and in depth analyses of the writer.

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The writer covers the prospects of China presence in the Asia Pacific, but rightly points out that it will be China's test as a Super Power. Pakistan continues to be a center piece and a crucial link in the ambitious plans of China. Pak – China nearness has been a resilient alliance for decades since its beginning in early sixties. For China, Pakistan is an asset too dear to lose. Pakistan is perceived to be China's Israel. Hence China's support to Pakistan at crucial diplomatic times has been unfailing and forthcoming. The book

is full of interesting tales of Chinese covert cooperation with Pakistan i.e., making of the bomb, action against terrorists, financial assistance with hiccups though. This book is an essential read for geo-strategists, economists, diplomats and intelligence workers. 288 pages book and intelligence workers. 288 pages book covers all aspects of a wholesome analysis of present China – Pakistan affairs which are likely to affect international balance globally in general and in south Asia in particular.