

# China's Economic soft power and Challenges in OBOR Project: a Study Based on China

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**Abstract:** The One Belt One Road (OBOR) initiative is a historical landmark that intends to plug in more than two-thirds of the world population and spreading up the windows for reviving global business, peace and infrastructure development across the lands. The main aim of this document is to discuss the OBOR initiative in general and to analyze its contribution to the economy and development. This study explores the influence of Chinese economic soft power and the mode of action that the political strategies have in the economic process. The major research problems is what are china's soft power and Economic foreign policy framework, the political economy of the OBOR initiative, what are the benefits of the OBOR initiative in different countries and challenges? The Research methodology is qualitative research. Secondary information was gathered through a literature review and reference sources such as legislation, international treaties, academic literature, journal articles and sources. The key finding of the research, China's soft power and economic foreign policy are strong and the economic strategies and opportunities have huge. Also, this project is a very important economic soft power, through this project, China has emerged as the world's leading economic pilot. The OBOR project encourages mobility and economic cooperation among the countries of Europe, Asia and Africa. China somehow manages to increase its exports even more it would give the Chinese economy some well-needed breathing space and a way to pay off their accrued debts. China is Pakistan's largest trading partner, with total volume exceeding \$20 billion and through the railway track expansion under OBOR the bilateral trade will become more accessible and beneficial for Pakistan too.

**Keywords:** China's Soft Power, Challenges and Opportunities, OBOR, Economic Foreign Policy

## I. INTRODUCTION

One of China's biggest strategic threats today, along with some scientists, is its international image (Ramo 2007). In order to deal with what we call the Chinese threat, we need to change the world view or the international perception of China. Great literature has been devoted to the discussion of China's image and the need to alleviate the "Chinese threat theory". Many researchers recommend an improvement in soft power, as the increase in soft power is analogous to the rise in the international image.

The advantages of soft power have been broadly recognised (see Andrabi and Das 2017; Nye 2004). Flexible authority depends on being able to shape other people's preferences. He cooperates with people instead of pressuring them. There is one example. It reinforces the intangible strengths of the country such as an attractive personality, a culture, political

values and institutions, and policies that are considered ethical. It appeals to an interest in common values, as well as to the relevance and duty to contribute to the realization of these values. Flexible authority has been a key element of successful leadership. Its call is due, inter alia, to credibility, trust, fairness, legitimacy and just reasons. If the country has values that other countries wish to uphold, it will be cheaper to conduct (Nye 2004). Soft power inexorably causes other countries to be willing to cooperate in trade and investment and to accept its policies and business proposals which pass on the cooperating nations to thrive together. Soft power has become increasingly important in the modern age as social media and communication technologies have flourished.

How, then, can a country like China elevate its soft power to the promotion of peace and prosperity? From the perspective of political science, the project of enhancing China's soft power lies in public diplomacy that helps international community to learn to trust China or to dissipate doubts and misconceptions about China. While China strives to enhance its international image or soft power, it faces numerous challenges to enhance its image. It should use public diplomacy to shape a sympathetic and harmonious international environment by building Chinese soft power and changing China's rise from a gruelling ascent to a soft rise (rising in values not just GDP). Since public diplomacy is an important channel for promoting national image and soft power, how would China go about it?

Unmatchable of the major evolutions in international commerce and international relations of this century is the China Belt and Road Initiative (hereafter BIS). This may be the most important piece of Chinese public diplomacy in this century. Announced by President Xi Jinping in November 2013, BRI focuses on bringing together China, Central Asia, Russia, Central and Eastern Europe, and Western Europe, linking China to the Persian Gulf and the Mediterranean Sea through Central Asia and West Asia, and connecting China with Southeast Asia and the Indian Ocean (Dun and Zhang 2017). The BIS covers an estimated 60 emerging economies, a total population of more than 4 billion and a share of the lion's share of world production. This is a significant public diplomacy plan for China's integration into various parts of the world (Cheng 2016; Johnston 2018). First, China has an ambitious plan to expand infrastructure for its strategic partners, including road, rail, ports, power plants, pipelines, and so on. In addition, as a result of the BIS, China plans to

increase bilateral trade with numerous potential partners. Furthermore, statistics prove that China since the inception of BRI, has vehemently increased its overseas direct investments (ODI) to its trading partners, especially in the BRI-participating countries (see Duo and Zhang 2017; Chung and Voon 2017).

The purpose of this research is to determine whether the BIS can be used as an important public diplomatic channel to enhance China's image in the world or as a soft power. Just like foreign aid that targets to build trust in a region of a developing country devastated by earthquake, for instance (see Andrabi and Das, 2017), BRI purports to promote China's global image by helping many developing countries around the world to develop infrastructural network and enhance trade and investment. But does BRI actually work to promote China's soft power?

To date, most economic studies have assumed and suggested that the BIS is an efficient strategy to promote trade, infrastructure construction, FDI flows and thus GDP growth. Demonstrate that the BIS will increase intra-BIS trade by 4.1%. Notes that the BIS will promote the GDP of BIS countries from 2.6 percent to 3.9 percent. Although economists often advocate the advantage side of BIS that can improve China's international image, there is also concern over the negative impact expressed in popular international media. The recent heated debate on whether the BIS will lead to what is referred to as the "debt trap" for BIS countries could itself raise concerns and deliver an impact on China's image (Brautigam 2019). Thus, the question of whether BIS (a high-level public diplomacy architecture) improves or not the subdued force of China remains an empirical question to which we try to address in this report. To our knowledge, this is the first time that researchers have attempted to tackle a problem that is so important not only to China but to the world.

The empirical strategy consists of using an estimation framework for differences. Empirical results indicate that Chinese TDI has a significant positive effect on sweet energy in China over the 2011-2016 sampling period. This is true for the sample of data before and after BRI implementation. However, using the difference-in-differences analysis, we show that China's soft power among the entire sample of BRI countries after BRI was launched in late 2013 are not statistically significantly different from its impact among the non-BRI countries despite the massive trade agreements and infrastructural investments proposed and executed by China in BRI countries since 2013. The complete sample of data in the BIS countries along the land route as well as those along the maritime silk route. The motivation for causing this is that China's soft power is hypothesized to be lower among BRI countries along the maritime route than the land route due to political and economic reasons. From a political point of view, the South China Sea dispute between China and a number of countries along the BIS shipping route, for example, may have repercussions. For economic perspective, the export structure,

and therefore production structure, for countries along the BRI maritime route may be more similar to China's and thus it is expected that competition pressure from China's export could be more intense than those on the BRI land route. The empirical findings have implications for China in order to advance the BIS by engaging meaningfully in dialogues, personal interactions and mutual co-operation that would dispel mistrust among participating countries.

In politics (and especially in international politics), soft power is the ability to attract and co-opt, instead of coercing. In other words, soft power involves shaping other people's preferences through appeal and attraction. A distinctive feature of soft power is that it is not coercive; soft power currency includes cultural, political and foreign policies. Recently, the condition has also been applied in changing and influencing social and public opinion through relatively less transparent channels and lobbying through powerful political and non-political governing bodies, and through economic influence. In 2012, Joseph Nye of Harvard University explained that with mild power, "the best propaganda is not propaganda", further explaining that in the age of news, "credibility is the rarest resource". In the information era, 'credibility is the scarcest resource'.

A ring, road or OBOR was first announced by Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2013. China was also the recent host of the Belt and Road Forum (BRF), which brought together leaders from 29 countries and over 1,000 representatives. The goal of OBOR is to strengthen trade and relations among countries in the region. The real objective of OBOR is unclear, because the term has been exaggerated by Chinese and foreign politicians. But certainly, if China were to succeed, OBOR would be the biggest project of the decade. This report will look at OBOR's impact on like-minded countries in terms of economic development, infrastructure growth, international relations and reciprocal benefits. OBOR explore the aforementioned criteria to determine the overall benefits to the economies of countries along the One Road.

One Belt One Road (OBOR) is a Chinese initiative that aims to connect more than 60 countries through physical, business, cultural and other ties. One Belt, the economic belt of the Silk Road, a replenishment of China's land trade routes through Central Asia and towards the Middle East and Europe. One Road, the 21st-century Maritime Silk Road, also known as the Maritime Silk Road, recreates and widens traditional navigation routes. "One Belt" and "One Road" were personally announced by China's President Xi Jinping on an international trip (Team Finland Future Watch, 2016).

China's President Xi Jinping suggested setting up a modern Silk Road equalizer. The visualization is to set up a network of pipelines, utility grids, railways and roads that would join China to Central Asia, Far-East Asia, West Asia, South Asia, South East Asia, Western Europe, Eastern Europe and Africa. This initiative, One Belt One Road (OBOR), will provide the world's largest platform for economic cooperation.

The significance of China, Pakistan Economic Corridor is massive for China, despite the precarious conditions in Pakistan & Xingjian Province; the Chinese settle to build the China Pakistan Economic Corridor has not been stunned. It is through the vast investments in infrastructure in Pakistan that China tries to exact on the risk of terrorism and poverty, which in the eyes of global viewers will hamper growth. No government has benefitted more than Pakistan.

China Pakistani Economic Corridor is a major part of One Belt One Road (OBOR). From a larger perspective, One Belt One Road is China's major geopolitical plan to convert the world order as we know it. One Belt One Road is an ambitious project that will link the People's Republic of China to the countries of Asia, Europe and Africa by sea and land. The primary objective is to increase the share of global commerce.

### *Research problem*

The basic study problem of this research is what is China's soft power and economic foreign policy framework. Other issues in the study were the political and economic background of the OBOR project and the challenges it posed. Do the OBOR project and China's soft power have a positive or negative impact on other countries? Was a further problem in the study.

### *Research Objective*

To study the political economy of one Belt One Road initiative.

The objective of the research was to study China's soft power and how it affects the global political and economic context. It also aimed to study how the benefits of OBOR affect different countries and its impact on China's soft power and strategic counterparts in a strategic and geopolitical manner.

## II. LITERATURE REVIEW

### *02.1 Soft power in China*

In recent years, China's emergent soft power has attracted the attention of many academics and policy makers, as China has become a global economic power. His efforts to create a positive self-image and influence around the world have generated much critical debate. To better understand the discourse on China's soft power construction, the following section provides a brief examination of the literature bearing on different perspectives China's rising soft power, Chinese officials' endeavour to promote its international influence, as considerably as a Chinese academic explanation of soft power.

On one hand, leading offensive realists like Mearsheimer (2006) considers that China seeks to be the regional hegemony, thus China's rising power is going to be a threat to the stability of the existing international order. This concern is widely acknowledged in other countries, particularly China's neighbours such as Japan, Thailand and India. Thus, it seems that a fair accumulation of soft power would be put on the

agenda in Beijing to persuade other countries that the peaceful growth of China is truly possible. Similarly, Glaser and Murphy (2009) assert that China's soft power strategy is mainly reactive and lagging considerably behind, and that it is mainly a defensive response to the Chinese threat.

China has become increasingly confident and ambitious on the international scene, calling for a positive image of the country. In this regard, China has managed to increase its global attractiveness (Cho and Jeong, 2008; Gosh, 2005; Paruk, 2014). Kurlantzick (2007) describes China's increasing presence in the world and the influence of soft power throughout the world as a 'charm offensive'. He was shocked to learn that in South East Asia, Africa, Central Asia and Latin America, China's influence in local communities is spreading. Even in Australia, which is considered the closest country to the U.S., nearly 70% of Australians have a positive opinion of China. Kurlantzick is investigating whether China is stepping up its engagement in these areas through the use of cultural and commercial tools to try these states.

According to Kurlantzick, China's soft power strategy proves to be quite successful as China can obtain what it wants and drastically changes its picture of a dangerous country to a constructive player in many parts of the world (Kurlantzick, 2007). Many western academics think that China's soft power policy is aggressive and not at all aggressive.

Big Project like China Pakistan Economic Corridor not only contributes to the growth of the world's national economies, but also leaves a variety of lasting impacts on the region. This is universally recognized that such tasks can change the fortune of the nation totally in less time if handled and possessed efficiently. The political economy of large projects permanently overshadows the current situation in states such as Pakistan. China's Belt and Road Concept are the beginning point of the site, which leaped out in the state and expand towards other states as a light beam of hope, growth and prosperity. Many studies have been carried along in China, Pakistan Economic Corridor by Pakistani as well as Chinese investigators and authors, but the political economy facet is still to be addressed and considered in detail.

Mill (1824) stated that Political Economy of a "mega project" is used for deliberation of production and trade as well as their background knowledge with government, distribution of wealth, law, custom and national income. By reading the economics of politics or state in the 18th century, the term political economy signifies progress. There is a greater similarity between the national economy and politics. The political economy acts like the government, while the internal economy acts like the family.

Keoltane (1984) states that "international political economy is the connection between politics and wealth." Worldwide political economy is the happening of the substantive range watched by the business facets generation and trade of attractive ways for need fulfilment with the routine by which effect is practiced that is essential to governmental problems.

In addition, the global political economy is the correspondent and the energetic cooperation of seeking wealth and seeking influence is evaluated from a different point of view.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the China, September (2013) started as “One Belt One Road (OBOR)”, consists of ancient continental Eurasian “Silk Road, Economic Belt”, and a Southeast Asian “Maritime Silk Road”, Pakistan possesses the military capability to serve as a link for the two routes which is well-defined by China as a “flagship project”.

considered that Pakistan is the first country in South Asia to consider a project contract of this size in 2014 as an authorisation. Pakistan seems to be the 2nd largest trade partner of China and China is the largest investor in distinct fields, ports, energy sectors, telecommunications, infrastructure, bilateral education and people to people links. The recent China, Pakistan Economic Corridor start between Pakistan and China make Pakistan the first transit hub for the 2nd biggest economy of the universe between the countries of South Asia. Thanks to the corridor, Pakistan seems to be expanding its direct links with its western and eastern neighbours. Iran and India are passing through the corridor.

News report (2006) confirmed that Beijing is ready to reduce geostrategic motivations behind the China, Pakistan Economic Corridor, many experts have noted that over the long run, an overland connection across Pakistan to the Arabian Sea could support diminish the “Malacca dilemma”. China's sensitivity to the fact that roughly 85% of its oil imports pass through the Malacca Strait.

Amin (2006) The political relationship is grounded in the pursuit of the power and economy of the state. Hence, political economy invites us to debate economics in terms of power-based social relationships.

### 02.2 Identify the impact of the BIS

first hypothesize that China's soft power would be significantly altered after BRI initiative was adopted out, due to the inadvertent rise in China's Geo-economic and geopolitical influences around the world as well as the ‘foreign aid’ effect. Economically, China has actively increased bilateral trade with a number of countries and built infrastructure as part of its broader BIS strategy. On the political front, China has tried to change the international relations landscape by actively helping many developing countries to develop their infrastructure and by promoting the objective of closer economic integration. From the point of view of citizens of partner countries with China, BRI is interpreted as an institutional framework that primarily favours trade and is actively involved in the construction of infrastructure.

The coefficient of interest in the above DID framework is the  $\beta_3$ , the coefficient on the interaction term  $BnRj*Post2013Dummy$ , which captures the differential impact on China's soft power in the BRI countries vis-à-vis the non-BRI countries after the year 2013 when BRI was

officially implemented vis-à-vis the period prior to the implementation of BRI. The key assumption is that BIS countries follow the same trend as other countries. This assumption is reasonable in view of the fact that the BIS countries were exogenous selected by China at the end of 2013.

Nevertheless, to address the possible setback that the BRI dummy may encompass other non-BRI factors that may change China's soft power, we take in and construct a specific BRI proxy using the interactions of the  $BnRj$  dummy and China's actual direct investment in the host country after 2013 for measuring the effects of BRI. This is defined under the following headings. As we know, BIS was designed not only to promote trade and investment, but also to increase Chinese foreign direct investment (FDI) flows to many participating countries. Statistics show that China's TDI has increased substantially, with a significant change in slope since the BIS was implemented in 2013 (Xu, Voon and Shang 2017; Chung and Voon 2017). We therefore model the increases in the TDI as distinctly propelled by the BIS as an indicator to capture the effect of the BIS, after Du and Zhang (2017). The theoretical proposition is that the BRI's massive investments in infrastructure would improve the quality and availability of logistics facilities in the participating countries which then boost ODI flows from China. Similarly, the government-level international cooperation, policy coordination and government support embedded in the BRI initiative would considerably lower destination countries' political risks for Chinese firms investing in the BRI-participating countries, which then boost ODI outflows from China.

## III. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

### 3.1 Soft power

Soft power means the ability to do what you want by attraction rather than coercion or payments. Or else of using military threats or economic sanctions (hard power), the artistic creation of soft power rests in communicative strategies, where listening and talking is both important for countries to demonstrate shared values and ideals with other countries. In particular, soft power is the ability to influence the taste of others, co-opting them by constructing or obtaining a common language and values to seduce them and persuade them that the objectives are also what they want. Nye submitted that when soft power is applied correctly, it should be more efficient than hard power. For in a world where interdependence is gradually deepening, the cost and difficulties of the exploitation of hard force are rising. While gentle electricity costs less for a state's reputation and appeal to influence others without violence or obligation.

What makes one country look okay? Nye (2004, p. 11) points to three important sources of soft power: culture, political values and foreign policy. Firstly, culture encompasses high culture like art and education, and pop culture like film. For instance, American films from Hollywood are very popular around the world, which contributes to a positive image of the

United States. Second, if a country's political values are widely recognized by international society and are consistent within and outside the country, that is attractive. Third, when a government's foreign policies are "legitimate and have moral authority," they result in soft power. However, as mentioned above, economic tools such as foreign aid are also considered a soft power in the discourse of Chinese academics. Soft sources of energy have a flexible, ambiguous range.

Public diplomacy is the usual means and instrument for a nation to leverage soft power, through broadcasting, cultural communication, education exchange and so forth, to achieve the aim of describing the other countries' governments and publics. In this regard, the importance of credibility is emphasized. A credible government is more reliable in persuasion. This means that in a flood of information, audience attention is more important than information. Building public confidence and attention is now much more critical than ever before. At the same time, as a result of citizens' natural distrust of authoritarian governments, states also need self-criticism to strengthen their credibility.

Soft power as a political buzzword has been studied at length and incorporated into the government's foreign policies to strengthen its domestic influence. Despite its popularity, some researchers have criticised the concept of soft power, which has become "a catch-all word that has lost its explanatory power". Another weak point is the analytical framework of the attractiveness mechanism, which is considered problematic. In Nye's argument, the soft power capability of the country resides in the attraction channel to reach the desired results. Nevertheless, is of the view that the explanation of "what constitutes attraction, how attraction can be translated into political assets" is not present in the context, therefore perceived as an ambiguous framework. Soft power is a good category of practice, but as for the analytical tools, other researchers suggested alternatives.

#### IV. THEORY DEVELOPMENT

Argue that breaking the vicious cycle of personal attitudes is difficult. Evidence that foreign aid services to increase the level of trust in a developing nation, particularly in times of crisis such as the Pakistan earthquake of 2005 that improved service delivery in Iraq has reduced insurgent violence and perhaps pacified attitudes among the Iraqi people. With reference to the above literature, we explore if the BRI raises the worldwide image of China, represented that the BRI helps to streamline logistic network (analogous to service delivery) and helps to raise the GDP of many developing countries through infrastructural building (analogous to a foreign aid). However, the question of whether China's international image is perceived by some other country as positive or negative is largely anecdotal. First, it is difficult to change the entrenched attitudes of local people. Second, the BIS has the potential to have positive and negative effects on the international community. In the economic realm, study participants in many countries may visit China as bringing

economic opportunities to their estates in terms of trade expansion, infrastructural construction, exercise growth and GDP growth. China is considered a contributor to economic welfare, so the positive image can be attributed to the BIS. However, economically, BRI can create a negative image as well. Since BRI can lead to positive or negative perceptions among the sample countries, it is hard to anticipate how it may affect China's soft power. Overall, therefore, the question of whether the BIS creates a positive or negative impression among the participating countries remains empirical and very interesting. Our document presents some policy implications for China on how the positive image can be improved and how the negative soft energy could be soothed or lightened.

BRI is active along land and sea routes. It is interesting to compare developments in China's soft power between the BIS countries along the road and between the BIS countries along the road. Thus, we speculate that China's BIS initiative would cause either a negative effect on maritime BIS countries more than on terrestrial BIS countries, or a positive effect on terrestrial BIS countries more than in maritime BIS countries.

#### V. RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

This is qualitative research based on a literature review conducted mainly by referring to secondary sources such as legislation, international treaties, academic literature, journal articles and sources. This thesis is based on an essentially qualitative approach to image analysis.

The Chinese government seeks to build upon itself through its OBOR presentations. Based on an in-depth analysis of official documents and the leader's speech, it aims to address what sort of role does China play in BRI? In addition, in order to understand how other actors deal with China's narrative, this article selected two countries as case studies. More specifically, relevant online newspaper articles are selected to present a valid representation of the way the media in these countries build the discourse on OBOR and thus also on China. As a result of differences in their economic, cultural and political systems, as well as geopolitics, diplomatic relations and other factors, different countries have a distinct response to OBOR. The paper highlights two of China's neighbours with closer ties to China than European and African countries. Pakistan and India were singled out for the case study. A theoretical framework is developed for the participation of the OBOR initiative in the future development of the world by means of a complete literature review. The study highlights the context, strategy, opportunities and challenges of OBOR's commercial, economic and policy initiatives. Semi-iotic analysis methods were used to analyze the data.

#### VI. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Global leaders gathered in Beijing to hear China's plan for global commerce: the One Belt One Road initiatives. Close to 78 countries and international organizations have joined the infrastructure megaproject. China continues to have an impressive growth rate, despite its decline. The country's

continuing economic gains be obliged much to the Chinese state's and still considerable ability it have to direct the body process of critical economic enterprises and sectors such as finance. China saw rapid growth during the 1980s, 1990s and 2000s, with production and investment increasingly dependent on the country's growing integration into regional cross-border production networks. In 2002, China became the largest recipient of foreign direct investment, and in 2009 it outperformed Germany to become the largest exporter in the world. As one would expect, the resulting Great Decline and Decline in World Trade was a major challenge to the country's export-driven growth strategy. The government's response has been to counteract the effects of the declining external interest through a remarkable speculative program financed by the creation of enormous liquidity and low lending charges. Speculation as a supply of GDP peaked at an all-time high of 48% in December 2011, remaining at over 44% of GDP. From 2012, the Chinese government began promoting the idea of a "new norm" with a target growth rate of 6.5 percent. The government argued that the benefits of this new normal growth rate would include more stability and a more domestic-focused growth process, which would be beneficial to Chinese workers.

China has announced investments of more than \$1 trillion in a variety of infrastructure projects and is funding them with low-cost loans to participating countries. Many participating countries, like Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, are in favour of OBOR as China is investing heavily in local transport projects in these countries. Landlocked Nepal has recently joined OBOR by signing a stack that will help it improve cross-border connectivity with China, and Pakistan is set to profit from the \$46 billion China, Pakistan Economic Corridor

(CPEC) that will connect South Western China to and through Pakistan, allowing access to Arabian Sea routes.

While China continues to pitch OBOR as an all-inclusive project for regional growth, other nations perceive it as a strategic move by the Asian powerhouse to attain significance and hold a regional level, and to get on a larger role at the global level by building and controlling a China-focused trading network. While US President Donald Trump challenges Asian countries with measures such as tariffs, China sees a chance to emerge as a regional leader. In the future, we could see a rise in the Chinese yuan (currency of China) with increased use in the OBOR region.

At the end of 2016, \$900 billion worth of projects were planned or under way, with Chinese banks lending and lending \$1.2 trillion (not all for BIS projects). Chinese agencies say that BRI will absorb between 4 and 8 billion dollars.

Starting with the Chongqing-Duisberg rail link that was (re) founded in 2011 prior to the announcement of the BRI, several Chinese cities now have rail connections with European cities and a act of countries have begun constructing logistics centres to service BRI traffic. Some projects such as the Port of Hambantota in Sri Lanka (which commenced work in 2008) and the Port of Gwadar in Pakistan (which is under construction since 2002) preceded the BIS. Furthermore, Chinese provinces such as BIS are also considering investing in neighbouring countries. For example, Guangdong Province is considering investing in a power station in Vietnam, an oil refinery in Myanmar and banana plantations in South East Asia.

Figure #: 01 Economic corridor within OBOR.



Source: <https://dailytimes.com.pk/28660/china-pakistan-economic-corridor-an-insight/>

The consolidation of a regional sphere of influence centred in China.

In order to understand the establishment of the zone of influence of China, we will briefly talk about the historical process of formation of the Chinese state. An important part of China's hard resources come from its population and the size of its territory, which was initially organised as a civilization along large rivers, the Yellow River, the Wei River, the Han River and the Yangtze River.

These rivers are turned away in Tibet, emerging in the west of the Chinese district and directing their waters to the arable land closest to the Pacific Ocean, the marrow and the south of the country. Historically, threats to Chinese unity have come from the nomadic peoples of the Central Asian steppes, located in the north and northwest of their territory, in a semi-circular anti-clock line from the Manchurian region of Tibet. It is indicated that China's sense of wholeness and individuality as a civilization is the upshot of a structure of socialization and differentiation between the peoples located in the Chinese plains of irrigable agriculture (civilization centre) and the wandering peoples of Central Asia, who made up the outer boundary of the ancient Chinese imperial system.

In this respect, the new Silk Road must be understood simultaneously as an economic plan, based on geopolitical interests. The legitimacy of China's centralized government lies in its power to maintain economic growth and development, so OBOR may be essential to the maintenance of China's political structure under the Communist Party. The Chinese emergency should remain in a peaceful manner, depending on the Western powers' response to their motions and their ability to take the course of development, which confers political stability of the government.

In addition, OBOR should benefit China's access to natural resources that are needed to sustain its medium- and long-term economic growth, such as food, oil and natural gas, as well as other strategic minerals. Ultimately, if successful, the project has the potential to change the correlation of military units present in Eurasia, placing China more favourably not only in this country, but in the international establishment.

#### *Contribution to subsequent development*

China has successfully managed to define the position of second largest economy and over the past 40 years, it has managed to lift out 600 million people from poverty (Hosain & Hossain, 2019). The Chinese-initiated OBOR philosophy can be seen as an opportunity rather than a threat to sustainable economic growth combining some key development initiatives (Wolff, 2016). It can persuade China's key policies, development strategies, foreign affairs and future investments that can lead to future regional and global economic development. Furthermore, it can help link partner countries and regions in arrangements of physical, political, cultural, economic and psychological interactions. In fact, it is a way of contributing to future regional and global development through the construction of new infrastructure from Asia to

Africa and Europe. The six economic corridors related to OBOR connect the geopolitically significant parts of Southeast Asia, Central Asia, South Asia and Europe helps to promote business transportation and economic influence of China over other countries. China has already enjoyed success from South East China (Sichuan) to South East Asia, which was initially a deliberate focus of the Asian Development Bank and other leading development organizations. A further corridor links China from Kunming to Vietnam, Laos and Myanmar. It is worth noting that with the exception of Japan, the remaining economies of Asia are significantly smaller than China. Therefore, China can be benefitted to be the top supplier of manufactured products to Asia as well as top consumer of agro products and resources from Asia specially, South and Central Asia. Some sites of geopolitical importance are likely to be viable as a result of the OBOR initiative.

#### *Economic growth in the developing nations of OBOR*

OBOR has made it possible for countries to expand their economic growth potential. This is explained by the fact that OBOR offers countries the opportunity to expand their economic activities through their trade with other countries. OBOR has 5 major cooperation priorities. The first is policy co-ordination. It involves the promotion of intergovernmental cooperation at several levels, an intergovernmental mechanism for the exchange of macroeconomic policies and communication, mutual political confidence, a common destiny and a new consensus on cooperation. OBOR emphasizes the importance of countries' coordination of economic development strategies and policies. Second is plant connectivity. It is OBOR's number one priority. On the basis of international law, it stresses the improvement of infrastructure along the OBOR routes in order to get an efficient infrastructure network connecting all sub-regions in Asia, Africa, and Europe. It basically improves traditional connections like highways, railways, postal services, aviation, shipping and pipelines and electricity, customs, border defence, quality inspection and planning. It also assists in promoting green infrastructure and low-carbon building. Third is open trade. That is the major project within OBOR. The aim is to improve investment and trade facilitation, strengthen customs co-operation, strengthen trade areas, develop modern trade in services and cross-border electronic commerce. It encourages the removal of obstacles to investment, cooperation in new industries and the development of mutual investment areas. In addition, it encourages foreign companies to help build infrastructure or invest in the silk road. Fourth, taxation integration. It is the essential basis on which OBOR is implemented. It stressed the importance of further strengthening financial cooperation, the establishment of a stable exchange rate system, the establishment of a regional financial early warning system and the issuance of renminbi bonds. It also highlights joint efforts through the Asia International Infrastructure Bank (AIIB) and the BRICS Development Bank. It also strengthens cooperation with financial institutions including the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and the China-ASEAN Interbanking

Association. Number five is the connections between people. It identifies the social element in the public collection. Assistance in the implementation of OBOR. It promotes friendly cooperation to facilitate cultural exchanges between students. It also contributes to the expansion of tourism by streamlining visa application procedures in OBOR member countries. It also strengthens scientific and technological cooperation and promotes research collaboration. In this age of globalization, governments are independent and interconnected. This interconnection is a complex international system in which states are confronted with common global problems of international trade and political security. However, international organisations such as the

World Bank and the International Monetary Fund provide a limited solution to issues between countries. In this case, China's great role in international relations drew the attention of scholars and became an interminable debate between scientists. The authors can say that China is trying to be a Hegemon country because China has demonstrated its ability to act as a responsible power both in economic growth and political stability. The OBOR project is located in conflict areas such as the South Chinese Sea. OBOR is put forward as a possible solution to strengthen ASEAN and challenges countries to have a harmonious relationship among conflict-affected countries.

Figure Number: 02 Economic growths in China.



Sources: [http://www.cadtm.org/local/cache-vignettes/L540xH405/1-42\\_d00ae.png?1593781272](http://www.cadtm.org/local/cache-vignettes/L540xH405/1-42_d00ae.png?1593781272).

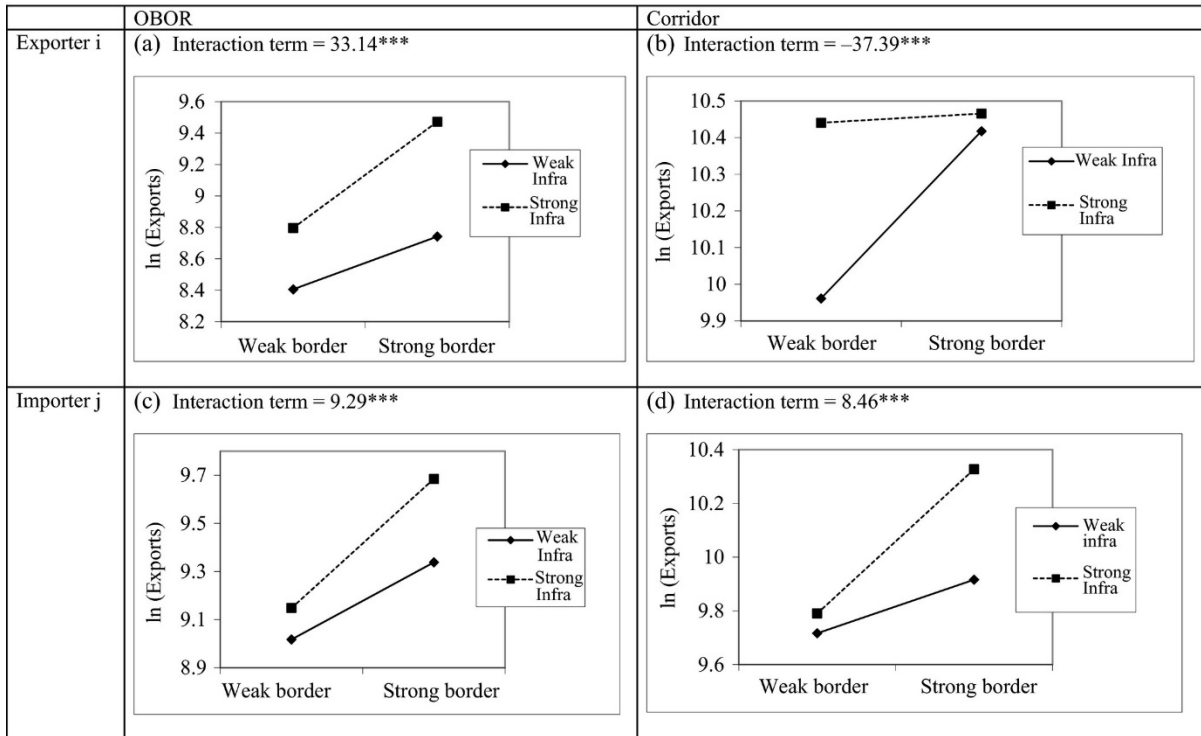
One Belt One Road's connectivity with China, Pakistan Economic Corridor is well based and China, Pakistan Economic Corridor through its state route network with china and deep-sea network with the Arabian Sea is definitely a necessary component of One Belt One Road. The One Belt One Road initiative is a great global economic development strategy with no parallel in human history. The quantity of accomplishments in China, Pakistan Economic Corridor will regulate the future path of the One Belt One Road initiative and set a period of Chinese authority in world affairs. The economic corridor between Pakistan and China will find a new model for global development centred on Chinese investment. The friendly relationship between China and Pakistan is being tested; therefore, the Companion States are facing the challenges and cooperative interests of the project. The dissident powers of the state and elsewhere can see it as a zero-sum game and try to block or disrupt the Pakistan-China economic corridor project. One Belt One Road should make China the world power. The Chinese Belt Roads Initiative is not based on assistance, or even on foreign direct investment, but on debt financing.

OBOR connects 65 countries and connects some 4.4 billion people across 65 countries. The OBOR region accounts for over 63 per cent of the world's population and 30 per cent of GDP. China's third opening cycle after the development of special economic zones and WTO membership. More than 70 countries and international organizations have signed cooperation agreements with the Chinese.

The five major areas of cooperation are policy coordination, facility connectivity, trade, financial integration, and people-to-people relationships. OBOR Implement 6 economic cooperation corridors: China Pakistan, New Eurasia Land Bridge, China-Mongolia-Russia, China-Central Asia-Western Asia, China Indochina Peninsula, Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar. China's trade value with B & R countries reached US\$953 billion in 2016, 25.7% of China's total trade 8158.8158 Contracts were signed by Chinese enterprises in 61 countries in 2016. It had started financing over 1000 projects in 49 OBOR countries in 2016.



Figure No: 03 Economic Corridors from OBOR (China's Export Facilitation Initiative)



Source: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/cms/asset/4540ee69-f8f5-4aaa-b6be-cd315f4096f8/twec12808-fig-0001-m.jpg>.

After a brief examination of the theories behind the economic corridor concept, it is necessary to understand whether the theories are actually useful. The first half of this section examines the six corridors separately, concentrating on specific projects such as power stations, dams, rail lines, cultural communication institutes, etc., that have been or are being built along them, and contends that in the context of OBOR, the various corridors focus on different ways of achieving economic growth.

Economic power is the major factor in shaping the CPP. Despite the deceleration of industrial production growth to 6.5% per year, the session of the National People's Congress in March 2017 took extraordinary steps to revive the Chinese economy. China's economic progress began with the participation of Chinese leader Xi Jinping at the World Economic Forum workshop in Davos in January 2017. In the context of global economic depression, globalization and unstable global conditions, President Xi Jinping outlined China's position on improving the global economy. Xi Jinping urged the world to act actively, to regulate in proportion he needs, to make full use of the positive results of economic globalization, to adapt to the general situation and the basic realities of countries, to choose the right path and the appropriate pace of joining to globalization, and to share the benefits of economic globalization. Xi Jinping pointed to three major contradictions in the worldwide economy: the lack of a driving force in the economic development, the inefficiency of economic management and the imbalance in the development space. In this regard, he proposed to create a growth model in

which innovation will be a driver, a model of open and mutually beneficial cooperation, a model of reasonable and rational management, as considerably as a development model oriented to balance and common preferences, which will permit to resolve contradictions and get out of a predicament.

Xi Jinping informed the participants of the forum in Davos of a special Chinese way of development, stressing that China not only benefits from the globalization of the world economic system, but also contributes to this process. Xi Jinping also expressed his commitment to a policy of reform and openness, urging businesses in various countries to develop the long-term development in China. It is worth mentioning that at the meeting of the American President D.Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping in the spring of 2017 in Florida, many complicated and topical subjects were called down on the schedule, such as trade, territorial disputes between China and its neighbours and the possible solving of the situation in North Korea. These issues are also in the minds of many Americans, including the issue of China's growing economic influence over the US. However, the concerns of the United States regarding loans, job losses and the trade deficit have generally eased. And over the past year, the attitude of Americans towards China has softened a bit, the number of Americans sympathetic to China has increased by 8% compared to 2016 (Wike 2017).

Besides the PRC's domestic challenges covered in the previous section, China will have to address a number of international issues to achieve its goal of becoming a major power in the international system, including its thorny

relations with the US and their ongoing trade war; its relationship with North Korea; the internationalisation of the renminbi; improving the performance of its ODI; the securitisation of energy supply lines; the territorial disputes with Japan and Taiwan over the Diaoyu/Senkaku Islands, with the Philippines over Scarborough Shoal, with India over the Himalayanborder, and with the Phillipines, Malaysia, Brunei, Vietnam and Taiwan regarding numerous maritime areas and islands, as well as over the latter being a part of the Chinese territory itself .

#### *Measurement for soft power*

The main variable that adds novelty to our empirical analysis is the perceived international image of China or its soft power. The image and appeal of China to others is crucial to its ability to promote exports, investment, tourism, ideas and policies abroad. Soft power is perceived to exert more positive influences that enhance national and international interests than hard power like military power. There has been little empirical research on soft power until the last few years because of the difficulty of measuring this beautiful but highly subjective variable. After Rose (2016), we build our soft power measure, based on a different country's perception of China. We use the results of a Program on International Policy Attitudes (PIPA) poll in collaboration with GlobeScan under the BBC World Service Commission. The results and related methodological details are available free of charge online. Participants in a large number of countries are asked about their sketches about a country such as China and demanded whether they perceive a particular rural area such as China as taking in a mainly positive or mainly negative global influence. They have been underway since 2006. The information is described in the following section.

### VII. CONCLUSIONS

In this paper, we examine whether China's BIS, a large international development initiative, is influencing the perception of its soft power at the global level. Applying the latest data from international surveys on new energy and statistics on foreign direct investment (FDI) from China, we note that TDO exits from China have a significant positive impact on China's soft energy. However, our analysis of the differences shows that BRI did not significantly increase China's soft power in BRI countries over non-BRI countries post-2013, as expected. This is in sharp contrast to the general perception of positive effect BRI is likely to get into the picture of China due to the gigantic investments and economic benefits wrought by BRI. In this stem that there are indeed offsetting factors that could have dampened China's potential increase in soft power due to the gigantic infrastructural building and massive trade expansion spurred by BRI. By disaggregating BRI countries into the land route countries and the sea route maritime countries, we show that China's soft power had significantly increased inland route BRI countries, but not in sea route countries, intending that the above negative factors have indeed played an important role that dampened China's international image. As a result, in order to improve

China's overall image among all BIS countries following the implementation of the BIS, it is essential that these negative factors be mitigated or eliminated. Further research would identify exactly what the adverse factors are.

In addition, the primary focus of One Belt, the One Road Initiative (OBOR), has always been to facilitate economic integration and expand China's trade capacity. OBOR aims to promote mobility and economic cooperation between countries in Europe, Asia and Africa. OBOR would enable China to alleviate part of the pressure of the Chinese economy caused by internal unrest. If China could expand its exports further, it would give the Chinese economy much-needed room to manoeuvre and a way to pay off its accumulated debts. That's why a project of "One Belt, One Road" (OBOR) initiative is ready to work as a momentous role in creating a new world order based upon equality and openness towards the economic opportunities existing around the universe. China is succeeding in increasing its exports even more, which would give the Chinese economy the necessary room to manoeuvre and a way to pay off its accumulated debts. China is Pakistan's largest trading partner, with total volume exceeding \$20 billion and through the railway track expansion under OBOR the bilateral trade will become more accessible and beneficial for Pakistan as well.

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