

Abstract

Although China is geographically not included in South Asian region but it has its increasing influence over the regional geopolitical dynamics owing to its cordial ties with most of the states of South Asia that results in effective engagement on the basis of its principles of peaceful coexistence. Its policy towards the region is an accumulation of well-defined bilateral relations marked by various economic opportunities, territorial confrontations, security threats and a continuous impeding US influence over the region. Within this context, the dissertation has attempted to analyze the factors or motivations forcing China to expand its political, strategic and economic influence over a politically and economically unstable region. China's opening up policy and its reforms resulted in its great economic growth that brought transformation in its foreign policy behavior followed by its Belt and Road Initiative that has been proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2013. Its main purpose is to make China one of the most economically developed, industrial and technological modernized state of the world. This study analyzes that how influential developmental projects makes China in the region and whether they only advances its own national interest or facilitates the region too. In the given period, China's ties with South Asian states evolved in political, strategic and economic spheres. The study addresses emerging relations of China with all South Asian states as an important regional stakeholders along with political, strategic and economic imperatives of the region itself. The study also deals with challenges that hinders Chinese influence over South Asian including US interests in the region, emerging Indo-US strategic partnership, instability and security threats in the region. Underlying assumptions of complex interdependence formed the basis of the study. This dissertation is an effort to understand China's policy towards South Asian region, nature of its relations, the feasibility of regional networking of China to prevail in South Asia and its expanding influence over South Asian region.