

**ABSTRACT**

*The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is one of the newest, multi-purpose regional organizations, with an agenda that ranges from broader security concerns to economic cooperation. The founding members of this organization are China, Kazakhstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, known as the "Shanghai Five". It was on June 15, 2001 that these five regional countries, along with Uzbekistan, signed the Shanghai Convention for combating terrorism, extremism, and separatism--sometimes referred to as 'the three evils'. The SCO is a combination of permanent, observer members and dialogue partners, each having divergent interests. The most recent (July 2015) significant enhancement to the SCO was the final agreement to include Pakistan and India as permanent members. It has yet to be measured whether this grouping of nations revolves more around mere rhetoric and goodwill meetings or whether the understanding can be translated into meaningful and concrete deliberations.*

*The key partners China as a rising global power Russia as the resurgent super power, if taking a unified stance, have the potential to free the region from the influence of foreign powers. However, both pursue their own national interests and have their own stakes and economic and political objectives in the region. This internal politics of national interests, seemingly prevent the forum from presenting and acting as a cohesive body. Even economically the forum made more promises than its demonstrated performance.*

*In the regional politics especially in Afghanistan, and Central Asia so far, SCO could contribute little for the promotion of peace and stability. Nevertheless, there is an urge among the SCO members to stabilize the region from the platform of this forum, either by denying the influence of extra regional powers, or else to ensure their own grip on regional politics. This paper is aimed at analyzing the future prospects of the organization for the regional stabilization and political and economic integration particularly in perspective of Pakistan. Regional governance has received growing attention, not only from researchers, but also from politicians and practitioners of regional development. The understanding and usage of the concept, however, are highly heterogeneous: sometimes regional governance is described or explained in terms of its characteristics, processes and impacts, while at other times, it is framed as a tool for regional development.*