

CHAPTER FOUR

Conclusion

After a thorough and comprehensive elaboration as well as analyses throughout the chapters, this writer concludes that the reason why India responds through political-military policy and actions towards China's economic approach in South Asia is because China hinders and threatens India's quest to become a great power, in particular in the region.

The first variable of threat perception, changing balance of power, shows us that China's economic activities have shifted the balance of power in the region and hence drive India to be a net security provider for the region. Changes in distribution of capabilities usually bypass signalling which suggest that rising powers will challenge as soon as they are able to do so. In this case, China as the rising power in South Asia is slowly taking over India's position as strategic partner and provider for South Asia's economic. As China has provided economic solutions for the region and India realizes that they do not have such capability to compete with China in providing economic solutions, India decided to offer security solutions towards the region. India acknowledges that they have the biggest military capability in the region, and took that chance to maintain their position as the regional leader.

Second, the encirclement towards India given by China through ports control and numerous projects such as CPEC have raised the urgency for India to defend themselves. Even though China's justification to deploy their military on those ports they controlled in the Indian Ocean is for economic purposes, but the encirclement

towards India and CPEC which breached India's sovereignty have put India at disadvantage. Threat perception theory argues that status quo is the reference for the future. Especially when status quo put other side at disadvantage, any activities can be seen as aggressive. This is the case for China. Beijing has put Delhi at disadvantage through encirclement around India as well as building a flagship project on India disputed area.

In terms of structural political attributes, India's decision was highly affected by its ruling party's agenda, as well as the decision maker perception. Threat perception argues that as decision maker often has the biggest leverage in calling an option and ensure it implemented, they are able to produce a decision which advance their interests. Ajit Doval, India's NSA, believes that in order for India becomes the region net security provider, it must modernize its military and reforms India's industry. Align with Doval's plan, BJP also has the agenda to make India as world's great military power and leader. As both were part of India's main decision maker, both advance the agenda of modernize India's military so that India able to become region's net security provider.

Fourth, decision maker identity highly affects the way country perceive threat. India's decision making process is centralized into Modi. Hence Modi's background and personal life are taken into account, which in this case, his life that highly influenced by the value of Hindutva given by RSS. The RSS provided Modi with an ideology that India always consider national dignity and pride, which makes India must take a strong position in foreign affairs and be global leader. The idea of this in addition

with Modi's leadership style, assertive, strengthen the implementation of political and military activities as well as advancement in responding towards China's rise in South Asia and the Indian Ocean region.

Hence, becoming the region's net security provider becomes the solution for India, not only to compete with China's growing presence in the region, but also to defend India's sovereignty from external possible threat given by China. However, this research is focusing to explain India's behaviour in responding China's growing presence, not whether India can compete with China or not for regional power, nor the fruitfulness of India's approaches. Therefore this research will be more comprehensive if be continued by focusing on the end-to-end landscape of India and China competition in conquering South Asia and the Indian Ocean Region.

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