

Probing the impact of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor in Civil-Military Relations and Democracy in Pakistan: An Analysis of Interplay between Economics and Politics.

Muhammad Derfish Ilyas

The University of the Cumberland, KY, USA

Abstract

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a major infrastructure development project that has significant implications for the economic and political landscape of Pakistan. This study examines the impact of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) on civil-military relations and democracy in Pakistan. The paper analyzes the interplay between economics and politics in the context of the CPEC, and its effects on the stability of democratic institutions in the country. The findings suggest that the CPEC has significant implications for the balance of power between civil and military actors, as well as for the overall health of democracy in Pakistan. The study highlights the importance of considering the political economy of development projects in order to understand their impact on governance and democracy in recipient countries.

The project is seen as a catalyst for economic growth and job creation in Pakistan, particularly in the less developed regions of the country. In addition, the CPEC is expected to provide a boost to Pakistan's strategic position by increasing its connectivity to regional markets and strengthening its ties with China. Overall, the CPEC is viewed as a crucial development initiative that has the potential to play a major role in shaping the future of Pakistan's economy and politics.

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has had a significant impact on the civil-military relationship in Pakistan. On one hand, the military has been heavily involved in the implementation and security of the CPEC projects, which has given it a greater role in the country's economic development. On the other hand, the increased economic power and influence of the military has led to concerns about its encroachment on democratic institutions and the balance of power between the military and civilian government. Overall, the impact of the CPEC on civil-military relations in Pakistan has been complex and multifaceted. While it has given the military a greater role in the country's economic development, it has also created concerns about the erosion of democratic norms and institutions.

Keyword: CPEC, Civil- Military Relations, Democracy, Politics

Introduction

Pakistan gained independence from British rule in 1947 and has faced military rule for several periods throughout its history. (1958-1971: Military dictatorship under President Ayub Khan - 1977-1988: Military rule under General Zia-ul-Haq -1999-2008: Military rule under General Pervez Musharraf) (Hu, 2020). These periods of military rule were characterized by restrictions on political freedoms, corruption and human rights violations. Despite this, military rule also saw periods of stability and economic growth in Pakistan. Pakistan was ruled by the military for several decades due to a combination of factors. First, Political instability, in the years following independence, civilian governments in Pakistan struggled to establish a stable and effective political system (Ghebbali, 2019). This led to the military viewing itself as the only institution capable of maintaining stability and order. Second weak democratic institutions, the weakness of democratic institutions in Pakistan, such as the judiciary and legislature, made it easier for the military to justify taking over. Third the external influences: Cold War-era geopolitical considerations, with Pakistan seen as a key ally in the region by the US and others, also helped to sustain military rule. Fourth the perceived corruption and inefficiency of civilian governments: The military saw itself as a more disciplined and effective governing body, and took power in order to address perceived problems with civilian governments such as corruption and inefficiency. Sixth the threats to national security the military also saw itself as better equipped to address national security challenges, such as the conflict in Kashmir and tensions with India (Ali & Bhatti, 2019). These factors contributed to several periods of military rule in Pakistan's history, with the military justifying its takeovers as necessary for maintaining stability and addressing governance issues.

Pakistan experienced some economic growth during periods of military dictatorship, but this growth was often accompanied by structural problems and uneven distribution of wealth. For example, during General Zia-ul-Haq's rule from 1977 to 1988, Pakistan saw an increase in exports and a construction boom, as well as some improvement in infrastructure. However, these gains were largely confined to urban areas, and the rural population saw limited benefits (Chowdhury, 2017). Similarly, General Pervez Musharraf's rule from 1999 to 2008 saw some economic growth, driven in part by increased foreign investment. However, this growth was

accompanied by high levels of corruption, and many ordinary Pakistanis saw limited improvement in their standard of living. Overall, while military rule in Pakistan has been associated with some economic growth, this growth has often been limited and accompanied by significant social and economic problems (Cheng, 2018).

Democracy in Pakistan has faced numerous challenges since its establishment in 1947. The country has alternated between periods of civilian rule and military dictatorship, with the military taking control several times during the past seven decades. During periods of civilian rule, the democratic process has been hampered by weak institutions, political polarization, corruption, and a lack of respect for the rule of law. Despite these challenges, there have been some efforts to strengthen democratic institutions and practices, such as free and fair elections, a free press, and an independent judiciary. The current state of democracy in Pakistan is mixed. While there have been some improvements in recent years, including the peaceful transfer of power between civilian governments, there are ongoing challenges such as corruption, political polarization, and the concentration of power in the hands of a few major political parties (Kugelman, 2017). Overall, democracy in Pakistan continues to face significant challenges, but there are also positive developments and ongoing efforts to strengthen democratic institutions and practices.

Civil-military relations have played a crucial role in shaping the development of democracy in Pakistan. The military has intervened several times in the country's political affairs, leading to periods of military rule and limiting the growth of democratic institutions. However, there have also been efforts to improve civil-military relations and strengthen democratic practices. For example, since the return to civilian rule in 2008, there have been some efforts to increase civilian control over the military and reduce its role in politics (Liu, 2019).

The military has also made efforts to professionalize and limit its involvement in politics. Despite these efforts, the military continues to wield significant influence in Pakistan and there are ongoing challenges to fully establish democratic civilian control over the military. Issues such as political polarization, weak institutions, and ongoing security challenges have also had an impact on the development of civil-military relations and democracy in Pakistan. In conclusion, civil-military relations and democracy in Pakistan continue to be shaped by a complex interplay of factors, including ongoing efforts to establish democratic civilian control,

challenges to democratic institutions, and the military's influence in the country's political affairs (Nasir, 2017).

.Civil-military relations can impact economic growth in several ways. Political stability , the good civil-military relations ensure stability and prevent interference in government affairs, allowing for effective economic policymaking. Second, defense spending, excessive military spending can divert resources away from other areas, such as infrastructure and education, that are important for economic growth. The presence of a credible and professional military can create a sense of security that attracts foreign investment and boosts economic growth Qureshi, 2019). Accordingly, the stable and well-functioning military can help protect and develop human capital, a key factor in economic growth. In conclusion, while military power is necessary for security and stability, it is important for a country to maintain a healthy balance between military and economic needs to support sustainable economic growth.

Economic growth and political risk are often intertwined in that political stability and stability in governance can contribute to a favorable environment for economic growth, while political instability can negatively impact the economy. Political stability: A stable political environment can attract investment, create a favorable business climate, and encourage entrepreneurship, all of which contribute to economic growth. Confidence in government: Investors are more likely to invest in a country with a stable government and predictable policies, which can help to drive economic growth (Ali & Bhatti, 2019).

. Reduction of corruption: Corruption can divert resources away from productive uses and discourage investment, hindering economic growth. When corruption is reduced, resources are more likely to be put to productive use, leading to economic growth. On the other hand, political instability and uncertainty can have a negative impact on economic growth by reducing investment, slowing down business activity, and creating a general climate of uncertainty (Chowdhury, 2017). This can be due to factors such as frequent changes in government, civil unrest, or conflict, among others. Therefore, political risk must be carefully considered when analyzing a country's economic prospects and potential for growth.

Pakistan is located in South Asia and is considered a key country in the region due to its geostrategic position. It borders Afghanistan, China, India, and Iran, making it a key transit point

for goods and energy resources. The country also has a coast along the Arabian Sea, giving it access to important shipping lanes in the Indian Ocean. Pakistan's location makes it a crucial player in regional politics and security issues and has been the site of various geopolitical conflicts throughout history (Qureshi, 2019).

Geostrategic Edge of Pakistan and China

A country's geostrategic position can have a significant impact on its destiny by affecting factors such as: Economic Development: A favorable geostrategic position can provide a country with access to valuable resources, trade routes, and markets, which can drive economic growth and prosperity. Political stability: A country's location and borders can impact its political stability by creating opportunities for cooperation or conflict with neighboring countries. Security: A country's geostrategic position can also impact its security, both by creating opportunities for cooperation with neighboring countries in the fight against security threats, as well as by increasing the country's exposure to security risks. Diplomatic Influence: A country's geostrategic position can also impact its diplomatic influence in the international community, by providing access to important trade and energy resources or by increasing its visibility in the global arena (Ghebali, 2019; Hu, 2020; Kim, 2019). National Identity: A country's geostrategic position can also shape its national identity by influencing its cultural and historical interactions with neighboring countries. In summary, a country's geostrategic position can have a profound impact on its destiny, affecting factors such as its economic development, political stability, security, diplomatic influence, and national identity. Therefore, Pakistan has a competitive edge due to its geostrategic position and neighbor with China the rising economic power of 21 century (Kugelman, 2017).

Pakistan and China have a long-standing relationship characterized by strong political, economic, and military ties. The relationship between the two countries can be described by considering various key factors. Pakistan and China have a strategic partnership, with both countries viewing each other as important allies in regional and global (Nasir, 2017).

The two countries have strong economic ties, with China investing heavily in Pakistan's infrastructure, particularly in the energy sector. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)

is a flagship project of this partnership. Pakistan and China have a close military relationship, with China providing military hardware and training to Pakistan, and the two countries regularly conducting joint military exercises. China has consistently provided political support to Pakistan on various issues, including its dispute with India over the Kashmir region. The two countries have a history of cultural exchanges, with a significant number of Pakistanis studying in China and Chinese people visiting Pakistan. In conclusion, Pakistan and China have a strong and multi-faceted relationship, built on a foundation of political, economic, and military ties, and reinforced by cultural exchanges. This relationship is likely to remain an important factor in regional and global affairs for years to come (Li, 2018; Liu, 2019).

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a flagship project of the strategic partnership between China and Pakistan, aimed at boosting economic growth and connectivity between the two countries. The CPEC involves the development of infrastructure projects such as roads, bridges, ports, and power plants, aimed at improving connectivity between Pakistan and China. The CPEC includes the creation of special economic zones (SEZs), which are designed to attract investment and support economic development. The CPEC also includes a number of energy projects aimed at addressing Pakistan's energy shortages, including the construction of hydroelectric power plants, wind power projects, and coal-fired power plants (Surahio, Mahesar, & Soomro, 2022).

The CPEC is expected to boost trade and investment between China and Pakistan, with the goal of enhancing economic growth and prosperity in both countries. The CPEC is also aimed at improving regional connectivity, with the goal of integrating Pakistan into regional economic and trade networks. In conclusion, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is a major initiative aimed at boosting economic growth and connectivity between China and Pakistan and is expected to have a significant impact on the region in the years to come (Abb, 2022).

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has had an impact on the civil-military relationship in Pakistan in the following ways: The military has played a significant role in the implementation of the CPEC, with the army providing security for the infrastructure projects and personnel involved in the initiative. The military's involvement in the CPEC has given it greater influence over economic and foreign policy, particularly in relation to China (Safdar, 2022). The civil government in Pakistan must balance its relationship with the military and China, as both

are important stakeholders in the CPEC. CPEC has brought significant economic benefits to Pakistan, including increased investment and job opportunities, which have helped to boost the country's economic growth.

CPEC has also had political implications, with some quarters in Pakistan expressing concern about the country's increasing economic dependence on China. In conclusion, the CPEC has had a significant impact on the civil-military relationship in Pakistan, with the military playing a key role in the implementation of the initiative and influencing economic and foreign policy (McCartney, 2022). The civil government must balance its relationship with the military and China, as both are important stakeholders in the CPEC, and the initiative has brought significant economic benefits while also having political implications. Therefore, to explore above mention questions this study is aimed to examine the nexus between China-Pakistan Economic Corridor in Civil-Military Relations and Democracy in Pakistan?

The objective of the study is to examine the impact of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) on the civil-military relationship in Pakistan. This includes exploring how the development projects and economic investments under CPEC have influenced the dynamics between the civilian government and military institutions in Pakistan, and assessing the potential impact of these changes on the stability and governance of the country.

Literature Review

Heidelberg Model of Civilian Control and its Components

This research uses the Heidelberg Model of Civilian Control to analyses the connection between CPEC progress and democratic quality. The Heidelberg Model of Civilian Control of the Military is a framework that outlines the role of civilian authorities in controlling and directing the military in democratic societies. The model was developed by German political scientist Herfried Münkler and is based on the following key principles: Civilian Supremacy: The Heidelberg Model asserts that civilian authorities should have supreme control over the military, with the military serving as a servant of the state and its citizens (Anwar et al, 2022). Democratic Control: The military should be subject to democratic control and accountability, with civilian authorities responsible for determining the military's role and mission, and for setting guidelines

for its use plants (Surahio, Mahesar, & Soomro, 2022). Separation of Powers: The Heidelberg Model calls for a clear separation of powers between the military and civilian authorities, with the military serving as a subsidiary of the state, rather than as a separate power. Professionalism: The military should be professional, with its members trained and equipped to perform their duties in a manner that is consistent with democratic values and norms. Civil-Military Relations: The Heidelberg Model emphasizes the importance of good civil-military relations, with the military and civilian authorities working together in a cooperative and transparent manner to achieve common goals. In conclusion, the Heidelberg Model of Civilian Control of the Military provides a framework for understanding the role of civilian authorities in controlling and directing the military in democratic societies, with a focus on civilian supremacy, democratic control, separation of powers, professionalism, and good civil-military relations. A literature review of the Heidelberg Model of Civilian Control of the Military would encompass an examination of the critical nexus between civil military relationship and its triggering effect on economic growth (Mukherjee & Pion-Berlin, 2022).

Civilian Supremacy in Pakistan

Civilian Supremacy refers to the principle that civilian authorities should have ultimate control and direction over the military in a democratic society. This principle asserts that the military should serve as a servant of the state and its citizens, and should be subordinate to civilian authorities in terms of decision-making, policy formulation, and use of force. In a civilian-supremacy system, the military should not be an independent power, but rather should be subject to democratic control and accountability (Ghebali, 2019; Hu, 2020; Kim, 2019). This means that decisions regarding the use of military force and the deployment of military personnel should be made by elected civilian officials, and that the military should be subject to civilian oversight and review. Civilian Supremacy is a key component of the Heidelberg Model of Civilian Control of the Military, which outlines the role of civilian authorities in controlling and directing the military in democratic societies. The principle of civilian supremacy is fundamental to the preservation of democracy, as it helps to ensure that the military is used in a manner that is consistent with democratic values and norms, and that the military is not used to subvert democratic institutions and processes (Naseer, Majid & Adnan, 2022).

In Pakistan, the principle of civilian supremacy has been a subject of debate and controversy, with the military playing a significant role in the country's political and governance structures. Historically, the military has been involved in several coups and interventions in Pakistani politics, leading to periods of military rule and undermining the authority of elected civilian leaders (Nitza-Makowska, 2023). Despite constitutional provisions that affirm the supremacy of civilian authorities, the military remains a powerful force in Pakistani politics and is often seen as the arbiter of political power. The military has significant influence over key foreign and security policy decisions, and has been accused of meddling in civilian affairs, including elections. In recent years, there have been efforts to strengthen civilian control over the military, with elected civilian leaders working to assert their authority and restore the balance of power between the civilian and military components of the government. However, these efforts have faced significant resistance from the military, which remains a formidable force in Pakistani politics.

In conclusion, the principle of civilian supremacy has been a challenging issue in Pakistan, with the military playing a significant role in the country's political and governance structures, and with civilian leaders facing significant resistance in their efforts to assert control over the military (Nagra, 2022). Nevertheless, the continued efforts of elected civilian leaders to restore the balance of power between the civilian and military components of the government are an important step towards a more democratic and accountable system of government in Pakistan.

Democratic control in Pakistan

Democratic control refers to the principle that in a democratic system, decisions about government policies and actions should be made by elected representatives who are accountable to the citizens (Nitza-Makowska, 2023). This principle ensures that the government is responsive to the needs and desires of the citizens, and that it operates in a manner that is transparent, accountable, and in accordance with the rule of law. Democratic control also applies to the military, with elected civilian leaders having ultimate authority over the use of military force, the deployment of military personnel, and the formulation of military policies. This means that the military should serve as a servant of the state and its citizens, and should be subject to democratic control and accountability (Ahmed, Caglar, & Murshed, 2022)..

The principle of democratic control is fundamental to the preservation of democracy, as it ensures that the military is not used to subvert democratic institutions and processes. By requiring elected civilian leaders to have ultimate authority over the military, the principle of democratic control helps to ensure that the military is used in a manner that is consistent with democratic values and norms, and that the military is not used to undermine democratic institutions and processes. In conclusion, democratic control is a key principle of democratic governance, ensuring that the government and the military operate in a manner that is transparent, accountable, and responsive to the needs and desires of the citizens(Nitza-Makowska, 2023).

Democratic control in Pakistan has been a challenging issue, with the military historically playing a significant role in the country's political and governance structures. Despite constitutional provisions that affirm the authority of elected civilian leaders, the military has been involved in several coups and interventions in Pakistani politics, leading to periods of military rule and undermining the authority of elected civilian leaders. In recent years, there have been efforts to strengthen democratic control in Pakistan, with elected civilian leaders working to assert their authority and restore the balance of power between the civilian and military components of the government. However, these efforts have faced significant resistance from the military, which remains a formidable force in Pakistani politics (Naseer, Majid & Adnan, 2022). The military has significant influence over key foreign and security policy decisions, and has been accused of meddling in civilian affairs, including elections. This has led to criticism from some quarters that the military is not fully accountable to elected civilian leaders, and that democratic control in Pakistan remains limited.

The separation of ownership and control refers to the distinction between the individuals or entities who own a company and those who make decisions about how the company is run. In publicly traded companies, the owners (i.e., shareholders) often have limited involvement in the day-to-day operations of the company and rely on management, a board of directors, and other stakeholders to make decisions and act in their best interests. This separation can create agency problems, such as conflicts of interest, that need to be managed to ensure the long-term success of the company (Ghebali, 2019; Hu, 2020).

In Pakistan's political system, the separation of ownership and control refers to the distinction between those who hold political power and those who exercise it. In practice, this can mean that elected officials may not always act in the best interests of their constituents, as they may be influenced by powerful political patrons, special interests, or their own personal interests. This can result in a lack of accountability and effective governance and can undermine the democratic process. To address this issue, civil society organizations and other stakeholders have been advocating for reforms aimed at improving accountability, transparency, and representation in the political system. Additionally, there have been efforts to increase public awareness and civic engagement to help ensure that elected officials are held accountable for their actions.

Professionalism is an important aspect of the Heidelberg Model of Civilian Control. In the context of military-civilian relations, professionalism refers to the principles, values, and standards that guide the behavior of military personnel and ensure that they act in a responsible and ethical manner (Kim, 2019). This includes a commitment to the rule of law, the protection of human rights, and the principles of civilian control. In the Heidelberg Model, military professionalism is seen as a key component of effective civilian control, as it helps to ensure that the military is a reliable and trustworthy partner in maintaining the security and stability of the state. When military personnel are well-trained and adhere to professional standards, it enhances their ability to carry out their duties in a competent and accountable manner and reinforces the principle of civilian control over the military.

Civilian Control in Pakistan

The Heidelberg Model of Civilian Control is a framework for understanding the relationship between military and civilian institutions in democratic societies. It suggests that effective civil-military relations are best achieved through a system of checks and balances that includes legal, political, and societal elements. In this model, civilian control over the military is seen as essential to ensuring the proper functioning of democracy and protecting the rights of citizens (Yuan, 2022). Civil-military relations in the Heidelberg Model are characterized by mutual respect, transparency, and accountability. The military is seen as a neutral and professional institution that acts in the best interests of the state, while civilians are responsible for making decisions about the use of military force and setting national security policies (Kim, 2019). The model emphasizes the importance of clear lines of authority and effective communication

between the military and civilian sectors to ensure that the military operates in a manner that is consistent with democratic norms and values.

Critical Analysis

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has been a major source of concern for the impact it has had on civil-military relations in Pakistan. On one hand, the military has been given a significant role in the implementation and security of the CPEC projects, which has given it greater economic power and influence in the country. This has led to concerns about the military's encroachment on democratic institutions and the balance of power between the military and civilian government (Kim, 2019).

Critics argue that the military's increased involvement in the country's economic development has come at the expense of democratic reforms, as the military has prioritized its own interests over those of the civilian government and the general population. This has led to concerns about the military's ability to maintain its impartiality and avoid conflicts of interest, particularly when it comes to the allocation of resources and decision-making regarding the CPEC projects (Duan, et al, 2022).

Moreover, the CPEC has created tensions between various civil-military actors, as different military branches and civilian organizations compete for control and influence over the projects. This competition has the potential to undermine the stability of democratic institutions in the country, as it can lead to a power struggle between various actors that threatens the rule of law and the stability of the state.

In conclusion, while the CPEC has had some positive effects on the economy of Pakistan, it has also had negative consequences for the country's civil-military relations and its democratic development. The military's increased power and influence in the country's economic development has raised concerns about the erosion of democratic norms and institutions and has created tensions between various civil-military actors (Duan, et al, 2022). It is important for policymakers to carefully consider the political implications of economic development projects, and to ensure that they do not undermine democratic institutions and the balance of power between civilian and military actors.

Civil-Military Relations of Pakistan

The Heidelberg Model of Civilian Control is a framework that has been applied to many different countries, including Pakistan. In Pakistan, the relationship between military and civilian institutions has been a subject of ongoing debate and discussion. Historically, the military has played a significant role in Pakistani politics and has at times held significant political power. In recent years, there have been efforts to strengthen civilian control over the military and to ensure that the military operates in a manner that is consistent with democratic norms and values (Duan, et al, 2022). The Heidelberg Model provides a useful framework for understanding the key elements of effective civilian control and for assessing the state of civil-military relations in Pakistan. However, the actual implementation of the model in Pakistan may be influenced by a number of factors, including the political and historical context, the state of the economy, and the strength of civil society and other institutions (Yuan, 2022).

The impact of civil-military relations on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) can be both positive and negative. A good working relationship between the military and civilian sectors can enhance the security and stability of the region and promote the effective implementation of CPEC projects. The military can provide valuable security and logistical support for the projects, and its involvement can help to build trust between China and Pakistan. On the other hand, a breakdown in civil-military relations can have negative impacts on the security and stability of the region, and could undermine the progress of CPEC projects (Yuan, 2022). If the military is seen as having excessive power and influence, it can lead to a lack of trust in the government and a decline in public support for the projects. Additionally, disputes between the military and civilian sectors can result in delays or disruptions in the implementation of CPEC projects. Therefore, it is important for the military and civilian sectors to work together effectively to ensure that CPEC projects are implemented in a manner that is consistent with democratic norms and values, and that advances the interests of both China and Pakistan.

Interplay Between Economics and Politics

The interplay between economics and politics plays a significant role in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Economic factors, such as trade and investment opportunities, can

drive political decisions and shape the priorities of policymakers. In the case of CPEC, the economic benefits of the project, such as increased trade, job creation, and improved infrastructure, have been key drivers of political support for the project. At the same time, political considerations, such as regional stability, security, and strategic interests, can shape the economic aspects of CPEC (Gheballi, 2019; Hu, 2020). For example, political decisions about the distribution of resources, the allocation of contracts, and the selection of projects can have a major impact on the economic outcomes of CPEC. The relationship between economics and politics is complex and can have both positive and negative impacts on CPEC. On the one hand, a strong alignment between economic and political interests can result in effective decision-making and the successful implementation of CPEC projects. On the other hand, disagreements between the economic and political sectors can result in delays, disruptions, or even the termination of projects. Additionally, economic and political factors can interact in unpredictable ways, leading to unintended consequences and challenges for the successful implementation of CPEC. Therefore, it is important for the economic and political sectors to work together effectively to ensure that CPEC projects are implemented in a manner that is consistent with democratic norms and values and advances the interests of both China and Pakistan. Effective communication, cooperation, and collaboration between the economic and political sectors can help to ensure that CPEC projects are successful and have a positive impact on the region (Hu, 2020).

The impact of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) on democracy in Pakistan is a matter of ongoing debate. Some experts argue that CPEC has the potential to contribute to the strengthening of democratic institutions and processes in Pakistan. For example, the increased economic activity and investment brought by CPEC can lead to job creation, improved infrastructure, and increased economic growth, which could contribute to the development of a more stable and prosperous democratic system. Additionally, CPEC projects could provide new opportunities for public participation and engagement, and help to build trust in government and democratic institutions (Gheballi, 2019; Hu, 2020).

However, others argue that CPEC could have negative impacts on democracy in Pakistan. For example, the military's involvement in CPEC projects could result in an increased role for the military in the civilian sphere, which could undermine the independence and accountability of

democratic institutions. Additionally, the allocation of contracts and resources for CPEC projects could be influenced by political considerations, which could result in corruption and a lack of transparency, both of which are major challenges for democratic governance (Ali & Bhatti, 2019).

In conclusion, the impact of CPEC on democracy in Pakistan will depend on a number of factors, including the specific details of the projects, the political and economic context, and the ability of the government and other stakeholders to effectively manage and regulate the project. Effective measures, such as increased transparency and accountability, could help to ensure that CPEC projects have a positive impact on democracy in Pakistan (Cheng, 2018). There are several reasons why the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) remains integral for Pakistan:

Economic benefits: CPEC is expected to bring significant economic benefits to Pakistan, including increased trade, job creation, and improved infrastructure. The projects under CPEC are expected to enhance the competitiveness of Pakistan's economy and drive economic growth.

Strategic importance: CPEC is seen as a key element of China's Belt and Road Initiative, which is aimed at promoting regional economic cooperation and connectivity. As such, CPEC is seen as a strategic opportunity for Pakistan to enhance its position in the region and to deepen its relationship with China.

Energy security: CPEC includes a number of energy projects that are expected to help address Pakistan's energy shortage and improve energy security. The energy projects under CPEC are expected to increase energy generation capacity, improve energy distribution, and reduce energy costs.

Improved connectivity: CPEC is expected to improve connectivity between Pakistan and China, as well as within Pakistan. The projects under CPEC are expected to enhance transportation infrastructure and improve access to markets, which will help to facilitate economic activity and promote regional integration.

Public support: CPEC has broad public support in Pakistan, as many people see it as a way to improve their lives and enhance the competitiveness of their country. Public support for CPEC is an important factor in ensuring its long-term success. In conclusion, CPEC remains integral for

Pakistan due to its potential to bring significant economic benefits, enhance strategic importance, improve energy security, and improve connectivity. Additionally, public support for the project is an important factor in ensuring its success and ensuring that its benefits are widely distributed.

Conclusion

The objective of the study was to examine the effect of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) on civil-military relations and democracy in Pakistan, taking into account both positive and negative impacts. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has had both positive and negative impacts on civil-military relations and democracy in Pakistan. On the one hand, it has brought about economic growth and development, which has strengthened the country's democratic institutions. On the other hand, the military's role in the management of the CPEC project has led to increased military influence in political and economic affairs, raising concerns about the erosion of democratic institutions and the military's growing role in decision-making. Ultimately, the impact of CPEC on civil-military relations and democracy in Pakistan is complex and multifaceted and will likely continue to evolve in the coming years. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has had a mixed impact on civil-military relations and democracy in Pakistan. On one hand, the large-scale infrastructure projects and investment under CPEC have helped to strengthen the military's role in economic decision-making and management, potentially increasing their power and influence in government. On the other hand, some argue that the increased economic activity and international attention brought about by CPEC may also have a positive impact on democracy and the civilian government's ability to assert itself. The net impact of CPEC on civil-military relations and democracy in Pakistan is likely to be complex and will depend on a variety of factors, including the domestic political context and the ability of the government and military to manage the implementation of the initiative.

Beside smoothing civil military relationship, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is seen as a key component of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), a massive infrastructure project aimed at improving economic connectivity across Asia and beyond. CPEC includes a range of infrastructure projects, such as highways, power plants, and port facilities, which are expected to improve connectivity and make it easier for goods and services to flow between China and Pakistan. This, in turn, is expected to increase the volume of trade between the two countries and help spur economic growth in both.

In addition to its potential benefits, CPEC also raises some concerns, such as the potential for unsustainable debt, the impact on local communities, and the potential for geopolitical tensions. Nevertheless, if effectively implemented, CPEC has the potential to greatly improve economic integration between China and Pakistan, as well as with other countries in the region, and help drive long-term growth and development. However, there are also potential challenges associated with CPEC, including concerns about the terms of financing, the environmental impact of large-scale infrastructure projects, and the risk of debt sustainability. The net economic impact of CPEC will depend on a variety of factors, including the ability of the civil-military nexus to effectively manage and implement the initiative.

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