

CHINA-RUSSIA-PAKISTAN STRATEGIC NEXUS: A BEGINNING OF NEW GEOPOLITICAL GREAT GAME IN SOUTH ASIA

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ABSTRACT

China's bilateral relations with Russia can be traced back to the Cold War period wherein various ups and downs were seen in the mutual partnership. On the other hand, branded as an all-weather friendship, Sino-Pak strategic and diplomatic bond has always seen significant gains. Since, both China and Russia are antagonists of the US existence in their immediate neighborhood and, hence, the rising Indo-US strategic partnership has compelled them to get strongly knotted into an unbreakable bond. In this fashion, a paradigmatic shift in Russia-Pak relations was witnessed after the duo strategically came closer to each other. In other words, a new triple alliance in the form of China-Russia-Pakistan has been in offing. Consequently, the main target of the imminent triple alliance would be none another but to counter the rising Indo-US strategic maneuvering in the Indo-Pacific region in general and South Asia in particular. Hence, the main focus of this study would be on analyzing the formation of the triple alliance and its consequences on both Indo-US ties as well as the regional security order.

KEYWORDS: *Great Game, Triple Alliance, South Asia, Indo-US Strategic Bond, China-Pakistan All-Weather Friendship, Russia-China Rapprochement*