

# *Risks of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Railway Project*

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**Abstract:** The article examines the risks of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Railway Project of China's and development of this project. It provides China's BRI with a new path of innovation and development on the trade route from China to Pakistan. By introducing this project, to analyze the benefits and development prospects of China-Pakistan Railway Project, which brings new development opportunities for China. And also put forward goals and plans for the development of China-Pakistan Railway Project of BRI with conclusions.

## 1. Introduction

With the improvement of comprehensive national strength, China has entered a new era of development. Nowadays, China is expanding “One belt, one road” project, and has cooperation projects with many countries in the world. “One belt, one road” fully integrated the overall situation of China and the international situation, and demonstrated the vision of China’s international strategy and the responsibility of China’s diplomacy to enter a new stage. “One belt, one road” initiative is a major strategic decision for China’s socio-economic development under the new normal. It is an inevitable choice for China to comply with the development of globalization, and it is conducive to promoting China’s common development and prosperity along the “One belt and one road”.

Recently, the China-Pakistan railway cooperation agreement signed by the Chinese government and Pakistan is an important part of the “China-Pakistan Economic Corridor”, it is a catalyst one for accelerating one belt, one road strategy development. China-Pakistan railway is a highway and railway connecting Xinjiang and Pakistan. It starts in Kashgar, Xinjiang, China and ends in Gwadar, a port city in southwest Pakistan. Before that, the outbound railway in Western China, which has been completed and opened to traffic, is the railway from Urumqi to Alataw pass, which is connected with Kazakhstan through the Alataw pass, and is also one of the sections of the famous “Eurasian land bridge”<sup>[1]</sup>. Obviously, the railway meets China's need to go south.

## 2. Evaluation

The China-Pakistan railway is the outline of China's land power strategy, and it has an impact on

the international political and economic pattern of the whole region. It will help China to integrate Pakistan's economy, stabilize Afghanistan, suppress and reduce the threat of terrorist forces outside China to the security of China's western frontier; it will help China establish common strategic interests with India, reduce India's suspicion of China's sea power strategy of entering the Indian Ocean; it will help China become the next key step in its land power strategy-- By helping to resolve religious conflicts between Iran and the Arab world and Israel, China is ready to establish its influence in the Middle East and Africa.

The construction of China-Pakistan railway has avoided the bottleneck of Malacca, shortened the transportation distance from Middle East oil to China, and promoted the development of Southern Xinjiang. The strategy of China Pakistan railway is of great significance to China's development. As an important step in the strategy of "going west". With the development of China's national strength, the relatively backward economic development in the western region has become an unavoidable obstacle for the Chinese government. Compared with the southeast coastal provinces, these cities in the hinterland of Asia and Europe do not have the long coastline and excellent harbor of the southeast coastal brother cities. Therefore, our country also tries to open a road to the world in the western frontier.

China is a developing country. At present, China is consuming industrial energy at an alarming rate. It is unable to meet its oil demand and needs to import more. At present, 60% of China's oil imports go through the Strait of Hormuz in the Persian Gulf, and 80% of China's oil imports have to go through the Strait of Malacca, which is at risk of being controlled by other countries. For China, the China-Pakistan railway will undoubtedly make China's energy supply more secure. Gwadar Port, which was built with the assistance of China, was officially put into operation in December 2007. This deep-water port on the edge of the Persian Gulf can transport oil and gas from the Middle East to China by land, thus avoiding the Strait of Malacca and providing an important channel for China to connect with the oil producing areas in the Persian Gulf.

At present, Pakistan is facing more and more problems. The economic crisis has made Pakistan's economy suffer heavy losses, the domestic political situation is unstable, and the activities of rebel provinces are increasing. The Pakistani government should take the country out of the economic difficulties, stabilize the social situation and expand cooperation with foreign countries. It is imperative for Pakistan to cooperate with neighboring countries such as China, while China is in a position of energy and Geopolitical Security Considering this, China will certainly attach importance to the further development of its relations with Pakistan, so as to make it its own westward passage.

### 3. Risks

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Railway project is an innovative and developmental project , however, in the process of the construction of the railway and the implementation of the project plan, it will also face various difficulties and risks.

Due to the complex geographical location environment, the China- Pakistan railway may not be built. The distance of China-Pakistan railway is very long and across multiple regions. The road is very complicated, there are problems such as large relief and complex geological conditions. Gwadar Port of Pakistan is located along the Indian Ocean, the terrain along the China-Pakistan railway fluctuates greatly, passing through the Mediterranean Himalayan seismic zone, so the terrain along the line is undulating and complex. In this case, the construction of China-Pakistan railway will be a large amount of work.

### 4. Conclusion

The railway out of China-Pakistan is the outline of China's land power strategy, which has an important influence on the international political and economic pattern of the whole region. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Railway Project has brought new impetus to the development of China and Pakistan, and promoted the prosperity and economic development of cities along the railway, which is conducive to the economic cooperation and exchange between the two countries.

Through the construction of an economic corridor between Central Asia, Pakistan, Kazakhstan and Pakistan, an effective regional economic cooperation can be achieved through the construction of the “energy corridor” between Central Asia, Kazakhstan, Pakistan and other countries. At the same time, Pakistan has strengthened its role as a bridge and link between Europe, Asia and Africa.

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor can promote the economic development of Pakistan, promote the whole Pakistan economy, and promote the economic development of Pakistan provinces along the economic corridor, so that a large number of people can obtain new employment opportunities. China-Pakistan economic corridor can greatly reduce the transportation cost of energy and other goods in China. Once Gwadar Port in Pakistan is connected with Kashgar in Xinjiang, China, the time, distance and cost of goods and energy transportation in China will be greatly reduced. There is no doubt that we must consider the “Cross Border Railway” construction of BRI , like China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Railway Project has the natural disaster risk, risk of ethnic conflicts, and even the risk of state conflict. We need to solve these problems, fully committed to building the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Railway Project.

China-Pakistan Railway Project will accelerate “One belt, one road “strategy development. It is an important part of “One belt, one road” strategy to promote economic exchanges between China and its neighboring countries. Facing the potential risks of the project, China and Pakistan need to establish a contact mechanism between government departments and industry organizations, and consider financing support. Encourage enterprises to actively participate in the implementation of China Pakistan railway modernization plan, actively provide technical and consulting services to enhance R & D capability.

## References

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