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YOUTH PERSPECTIVES

A biannual publication of



Foundation for Advancement of
Independent Research & Learning for
International Peace & Security
(FAIRLIPS)

YOUTH PERSPECTIVES

Description:

Youth Perspectives is a magazine of the **Foundation for Advancement of Independent Research and Learning for International Peace and Security (FAIRLIPS)** that aims to promote independent research and learning, both indispensable for securing international peace and security. It strongly adheres to the principle of unequivocal respect for humanity, religious beliefs of all communities and the local laws.

Youth Perspectives endeavours to advance foundation's objectives mainly to develop habit of learning and inculcate practice of writing among youth particularly undergraduate students of universities and colleges in a bid to prepare and promote a new generation of writers on subjects of diverse nature. It also strives to invite and encourage youth particularly students to participate in healthy debates, through their writings, in a positive and constructive manner.

Youth Perspectives provides young and talented writers from across the country a forum and opportunity to express their views and contribute on issues of their interest in a studious manner. It mainly, but not exclusively, encourages undergraduate students of universities and colleges to pen down their thoughts on contemporary issues of diverse nature.

Youth Perspectives invites young, talented and emerging scholars and writers to send their **opinion articles of about 600-800 words** on any current issue or historical event etc. Prospective writers can contribute on topics related to politics, economy, international relations, peace, security, human rights, environment, water scarcity, health, education, culture, sports, social issues, and role of media etc.

Ethical Guidelines:

Youth Perspectives stands for promoting peace, love, concord and harmony at all levels. Thus, prospective contributors are advised / expected to avoid controversial contents and hate material of every sort. Writers are also expected to respect Pakistan's constitution, laws including cyber laws, and institutions especially the integrity of country's judiciary and armed forces, as well as religious and sectarian beliefs of the citizens. The material that can spread religious, sectarian, racial and ethnic divide and hatred will not be published.

Disclaimer:

The views expressed in the *Youth Perspectives* or solely of the author(s) and do not represent the official point of view of the foundation (FAIRLIPS) or its team members.

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**PAKISTAN RESOLUTION:
THE RESOLUTION THAT CHANGED THE WORLD HISTORY**

(Ahmed Bux Jamali)

The people of Pakistan celebrate the 23rd of March every year, with great zeal and enthusiasm by organizing various programs, academic contributions, youth discussions, armed forces' parade and children celebrations at almost every institutions of Pakistan. This day has remarkable significance in the creation of Pakistan marking a separate identity on the map of the world. This Resolution is referred as a historical milestone for the most outstanding achievement of the Muslims in the Sub-continent, who passed the historic 'Pakistan Resolution' or 'Lahore Resolution' at Minar-e-Pakistan, Lahore in 1940. In 1941, Pakistan Resolution became part of the Muslim League's constitution. In 1946, it formed the basis for the decision of Muslim League to struggle for one state for the Muslims. Resultantly, the resolution proved to be a cornerstone for the creation of an independent country Pakistan on 14th August 1947.

Seventy-Six years ago, on March 23, 1940, at Muslim League's 27th session, under the dynamic leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Mr. A.K. Fazl-ul-Haq moved a resolution whereby demand for separate sovereign state for the Muslims in the North West and Eastern Zones of the sub-continent was given as population was Muslim majority in those areas. The resolution was seconded by Chaudhary Khaliqzamm from UP, Maulana Zafar Ali Khan from Punjab, Sardar Aurangzeb from the N.W.F.P (Currently Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), Sir Abdullah Haroon from Sindh, and Qazi Muhammad Esa from Baluchistan. Additionally, it was passionately supported by several prominent leaders and members of the All India Muslim League.

The statements of the Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah represented a deeper sentiment for Muslims who were deprived of their religious, cultural, economic, political, administrative and other rights. Great leader stated, "The Hindus and Muslims belong to two different religious philosophies, social customs, and literature. They neither inter-

marry nor inter-dine together, and indeed they belong to two different civilizations which are based mainly on conflicting ideas and conceptions.”

The Pakistan Resolution undoubtedly channelized the true picture of nationalism, integrity, solidarity, and concept of one homeland and one identity for the Muslims. The aim was to get rid of slavery, and permanent minority status. The resolution is believed to be the epitome of goal-orientation and untiring struggle of Muslims from “Separate electorate to “Separate state” respectively.

Portraying the scenario on the other side, ceremonial celebrations on this day is not enough to shape the country as desired by our national heroes. Their dream was to make this country among the best in the world. There is a dire need to understand the true spirit of the resolution and creation of separate country as blessings for whole nation. We as a nation have to work upon all the areas where we are lacking behind such as caste, color, ethnicity and identity issues. As our country is surrounded by many internal and external challenges, its high time to work together for our Pakistan to take it out of crisis and problems. Thinking rationally and acting wisely will lead us to new heights of glory. Our level of patriotism should never be derailed by any forces separating us into many parts. Remember that, Pakistan belongs to ME, YOU and everyone of US.

The author holds a master degree in International Relations from Department of Politics and IR, International Islamic University Islamabad.

**ONE BELT, ONE ROAD:
NEW ERA OF CHINESE DIPLOMACY**

(Majid Essa Ali)

“If you want to develop, build a road,” a Chinese phrase quotes. China’s 21st century strategy deems more based on this stance. It can be demonstrated by Beijing’s propelling development and infrastructure programs. Beijing’s pursuit of becoming a global economic hub and a maritime power through its one belt, one road initiative demonstrates her ambitions.

One belt, one road initiative is key policy of Xi Jinping’s administration which was incorporated in documents in late 2013. It is a Chinese scheme to boost development along ancient Silk Road trading routes connecting different regions of Asia and Europe. It would be connecting China with 64 countries with a total sum of 4.4 billion populations. The plan would involve rail, road and power projects. Estimated Investment for this project is to be about \$ 890 billion.

Two routes are outlined in the roadmap. First is the ancient traditional territorial silk route which connects China with Central Asia, South Asia and Europe, while the second one would be 21st century maritime route connecting South East Asia, Middle-East and Europe with China.

The traditional silk route is a 2500 years old passage way through which silk, spices and slaves between China and Eurasia were traded. It was established during the Han Dynasty in China. It includes a network of roads passing through Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, India, South East Asia and Central Asian republics transcending various mountain Ranges and ending at Europe. The route is being revived by China by inflating a new spirit.

In 2013 during a visit of Xi Jinping in Southern Caucus region and Central Asia, a \$60 billion oil and gas project was signed. Chinese companies own around 25% of Kazakhstan’s oil production and account over 50% of Turkmenistan’s gas exports.

Furthermore, Chinese Export-Import bank is the largest creditor, holding 49% of Tajikistan's and 36% of Kyrgyzstan's government debt.

The maritime program includes in itself Chinese development of several ports and harbors in regions mapped in OBOR. These include Chinese efforts to initiate development of port in Pakistan's Gwadar at an initial expense of \$248 million. The second phase which started from 2007 costs \$930 million. Later in March 2015, Xi extended a \$46 billion mega-project of China Pakistan Economic corridor (CPEC) which would connect Gwadar port with Xinjiang's Kashgar. This enterprise would connect both maritime and silk routes.

Six months earlier, construction work of Colossal Bagamoyo terminal in Tanzania, which is the biggest port in East Africa, began at a cost of \$11 billion, most of which is funded by China. It would be operational by 2017, with a handling capacity of 20 million containers per annum. The project would include construction of roads and rail links, connecting several other African landlocked countries with the port city.

In Sri Lanka, a port in the city of Hambantota was constructed in 2010 of which 85% was funded by Ex-Im bank of China. In 2007 a deal worth \$1 billion was signed between the two for this scheme. In four of seven container berths, China was granted a lease for 35 years. Moreover, in 2013 Beijing unleashed its ambitions to invest \$1.4 billion to develop a mini-city close to Colombo.

Chinese investment in Myanmar crossed \$8 billion mark. It includes \$5 billion of two hydroelectric dams in Kachin State, oil and gas pipeline project of worth \$2.15 billion from Rakhine state to Yunnan province and copper mine project in Monywa of worth \$997 million. Four years ago, Chinese investment in the country stood at only \$200 million. The two landlocked provinces of China—Yunnan and Sichuan are to benefit from this momentous design. Beijing is also planning to build a rail link with Nepal through Mt. Everest.

Recently, Greece has signed a 368.5 million Euro deal to sell the operator of Piraeus port to Chinese shipping group COSCO. Under the deal COSCO will acquire 51% of port's

share for 280.5 m Euro and remaining 16% for 88 million Euros after 5 years. The company will invest additional 350 million Euros over the next decade.

According to a London-based think tank, Grisons Peak, of 67 overseas loan commitments made by China's Development Bank and Export-Import bank, a lion's share (76%) have been in areas defined by OBOR. Additionally, among 172 loans extended by Beijing from 2013-2015 of worth over \$100 billion, majority went to Asian share. In contrast to China's pre-OBOR initiative where more focus was placed on Africa. Though, Togo's president in his visit to Beijing last month declared Togo can be a pivot for OBOR, yet it is to be decided to whether extend the project further.

China's hunt to explore more and more sources of energy procurement is in accordance with its enhancing energy demands. The OBOR scheme would broaden horizons of new hopes for both developing countries and China, as it was widely appreciated by almost every nation mapped in the program. Through these plans, China would be in easy access to export its products and import raw material from these nations.

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US PUBLIC DIPLOMACY: OLD WINE, NEW BOTTLE

(Hina Javed)

The concept of public diplomacy is as old as the traditional diplomacy. Its importance heightened in the 21st century when the use of force was limited, wars became unwanted and there was a shift from hard power to soft power. Public diplomacy became highly important for United States due to 9/11 episode. These attacks had transformed the shape of the world and affected the US national security concerns. Combating terrorism had become the first priority for the US because arms alone cannot defeat the terrorists so the United States adopted the soft way which was an effective public diplomacy to communicate with the rest of the world. Thus, the US not only fought a war against international terrorism by classic military means but also engaged in the battle of winning Hearts and Minds to build the positive image and engage the foreign audience in order to achieve their foreign policy objectives. The two important objectives of US public diplomacy are: to promote American ideas and values, and: to discredit the enemy's ideas and values.

The relationship of Pakistan and the US are oscillating in nature for the past many decades, many ups and downs came in their relationship but due to the 9/11 attacks Pakistan became strategically and geopolitically important for US because of war on terror. Pakistan became an ally once more and received an increased foreign assistance from the US. The Obama administration has prioritized building a strategic partnership with Pakistan. Various developments were made in the US-Pak relations but somehow US failed to bridge the gap because the public of Pakistan consider US as an unreliable partner. In this context, public diplomacy became an essential tool for improving the US-Pakistan relations. The US is engaged in both traditional and public diplomacy efforts to reverse anti American sentiments, counter misunderstandings and misinformation about itself. For this purpose, the US initiated information programs, educational exchanges and cultural presentations to change the negative thinking of public. Five US agencies are

responsible for conducting public diplomacy which are the broadcasting board of governors (BBG), US agency for international development (USAID), state department (DOS), department of defense (DOD) and the White house (through National security council). There are eleven main projects with a total budget of roughly \$400 million dollar including five media projects, three international exchange programs, language training programs. Some of these efforts are successes others are failure. International exchanges and language training earn good marks while the US media efforts seemed to be failed.

The Obama Administration has identified the new plan for the development of a strong partnership with Pakistan as essential for securing regional stability and protecting US national security. President Obama affirmed that “In the past, we too often defined our relationship with Pakistan narrowly. Those days are over moving forward we committed to a partnership with Pakistan that is built on a foundation of mutual interest, mutual respect and mutual trust.” This plan encompasses various initiatives by strengthening people to people ties that include Fulbright exchange program, professional exchanges like the Humphrey Scholarship and International Visitor leadership program, English access Micro scholarship program that aims to develop the English language skills of 14-18 year old students as well as summer learning activities for the period of two year. The second plan is building communication capacity in Pakistan. The US is working with the Pakistani government to build communication capacity through infrastructure and human capital. The US offers scholarships to journalists as well as internships. The third plan is countering the extremist narratives. However, these initiatives and plans are also beneficial for Pakistan as well because they can help us to increase our literacy rate through scholarships, awareness via media, and freedom of expression via internet especially through social media.

By and large, America’s image in Pakistan remains extremely negative. According to a poll conducted by the Pew research center, Pakistanis give the US its lowest ratings. Only 17 percent of Pakistanis hold a favorable view about the US. In fact, 59 percent of Pakistanis view the US as an enemy while only 11 percent consider it as a partner. In Pakistan particularly in FATA, most people have negative view perceptions of US

involvement in Afghanistan. 77 percent of FATA residents view the campaign as a war to weaken the Muslim world. Despite the overwhelming negative views about the US, most Pakistanis desire better relations with the superpower. Meanwhile, poll results also suggest that effective public diplomacy and development initiative could significantly improve Pakistani public opinion.

Despite of all these steps, there are still some challenges to the US, most notably the growing trust deficit in its relations with Pakistan, the security conditions, the US public diplomacy as propaganda against Pakistan and information revolution poses barriers to progress. The historically fluctuating nature of US-Pak relationship had led to trust deficit between the Pakistani and American people that may constitute the greatest challenge to US public diplomacy measures in Pakistan. The environment of distrust and hostility is a major hurdle for the US in establishing a long term partnership with Pakistan. On the other hand, the volatile security environment of Pakistan also became a challenge in conducting its tasks. Nowadays due to information revolution individuals are bombarded with information from various sources so it is often difficult to ensure the credibility of messages. US is also trying to find an answer that despite of enormous efforts why they still hate us? James Zogby, President of the Arab American Institute, has probably rightly pointed out that in general people do not hate American culture or people. They enjoy American movies, food and music. He says "It's not our values, it's not our democracy, it's not our freedom its American foreign policy they don't like but it is not the case there are other several reasons for hatred like the war in Iraq, Afghanistan, US support to Israel and not to the Palestine. The US can remove hateful sentiments among the Pakistani public by help resolving the Kashmir and Palestinian issues.

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