

# Changing Diorama of International Order and Containment Strategy

*Dr. Yubaraj Sangroula\**

## Introduction

The coeval situation in the world politics is seen a shift in the power-structure that is unfolding a new dimension within itself. Particularly the rise of China and India as crucial stakeholders, both in terms of economic as well as political process is a major catalytic factor for this. Owing to this prowess they have been able to present massive presence both in implicit as well as explicit terms across the world. This development has brought forth a commodious challenge to the monopoly of the United States of America and the dominance of western powers in world politics. This development manifests a new thrust of reshaping of existing Euro-American power structure into something beyond it.

The western understanding to this paradigm shift or rise of new nations distinct from themselves associates with a psyche of losing their dominant status in world politics. In this perceptive background, international politics is defined by them within power position of a state. The realization of this power leads to materialization of their goals.<sup>1</sup> This is achieved as by gaining power a state would have the ability to make other states to do what they otherwise would not do.<sup>2</sup> Hence, rise of new powers in world politics within this background is attached to attainment of dominant power status. As for this perceptive association having to gain dominant power status is an inevitable and indispensable prerequisite or

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\* Executive Director, Kathmandu School of Law, Former Attorney General, Office of Attorney General, Nepal.

<sup>1</sup> Joseph S. Nye, 'The Changing nature of World Power', POLITICAL SCIENCE QUARTERLY, Vol. 105, No.2, (1990), 177.

<sup>2</sup> ROBERT A DHAL, WHO GOVERNS? DEMOCRACY AND POWER IN AN AMERICAN CITY, Yale University Press, New Haven, (1961).

a disposition for sharing privilege of sovereign equality and the same is the precondition for materializing its interests in the international forums. This represents the Euro- Centric concept of State and political philosophy that the sovereign independence of any state is a consequence of the ability of gaining power. This theory would run in contradiction the principle of independence of state, according to which a nations existence in is not determined by its power status but by a notion of peaceful co-existence and preparedness of mutual respect and cooperation. China was not left as an exception where colonizers had been engaged to subdue Chinese emperors for the sake of trade and exploitations of resources. The fact that European wealth in 1830 represented less than 3 percent of the world GDP and China and India represented 12 and 13 percent respectively but the decline of per-capita income into one-third of the English level within the late 18<sup>th</sup> century represents the gravity of plunder and exploitation done by the western colonizers.

Reflection of this perception into real world has historically and contemporarily demonstrated by several maneuvers taken by the western powers. This history of colonial plunder demonstrates that the Western powers amassed massive wealth colonizing other countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America.<sup>3</sup> In search of unlimited power and wealth these powers imposed a brute dominance of colonial rule. They ruled these territories with unlimited atrocities and brutality leading to exploitation and plunder. This dreadful historical instance demonstrates the political culture of dominance and greed for of power status within international affairs exercised by the west.<sup>4</sup> This historical fact demonstrates a political culture of aggressive design, where the occupation of state was taken as a right of a powerful empire. One can discern the picture of this culture from the essays and memoirs of Babington Macaulay, one of the architects of consolidation of British colonial rule in India whose work demonstrates the attitude of seeking domination present in the colonial powers.

In the contemporary scenario, this attitude with focus on dominant power status is relentlessly reverberated through zero sum game policy adopted by western powers. A particular reflection of this is concretely represented by the security policy adopted by the United States of America during the trump administration.

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<sup>3</sup> Gerard M. Koot, 'The Great Divergence: Explaining why Asian economic growth lagged behind European Growth, 1500-1870', *History Department, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth Working Paper* available at [http://www1.umassd.edu/euro/resources/world\\_economy](http://www1.umassd.edu/euro/resources/world_economy) (accessed on 2/07/2019).

<sup>4</sup> Lord Macaulay, *Miscellaneous Essays with Memoirs and Index*, Vol. 1, 2 and 3, New York: Sheldon and Com. Publication, 1860.

The security policy pinpoints China as 'antithetical' to their values. Further it accuses China of trying to 'displace the influence' of United States of America in the Indo-pacific region. A particular focus is made towards the state drive economic model opted by China to do so, primarily the BRI initiative. The National Security strategy of the United States released on December 2017 has pinpointed Russia and China specifically as power's that 'actively compete' against the United States and its allies. They have been stated as wanting to shape the world as 'antithetical' to U.S values and interests. Further the National Security Strategy signals that the current administration considers the 'Indo- pacific region' as the most strategically important geographical area. This can be deduced by the fact that the region has been referred at the top of the section devoted to elucidating the regional implications of the 'America first National Security Strategy'. Along with this United States has held a 'Quadrilateral meeting' on regional cooperation along with Japan , India and Australia which can be seen as a Maneuver of counterbalancing China's influence in the Asia- Pacific region<sup>5</sup>.

A materialized manifestation and execution of binary opposite theory can be discerned from the above mentioned scenario. The understanding that a powerful Asia, or pertinently, a powerful China is a threat to the existing international order represents this.<sup>6</sup> Reality is however different to the American assumption. Through the BRI initiative China has rather projected an image positively in global spectrum of economic cooperation and development. This definitely represents or reshapes a new form of diplomacy in the realm of international politico-economic order. A module of diplomacy based on 'development and cooperation' rather than 'gun boat' diplomacy practiced by the west is the primary departure. China has proposed a modality of 'Full Connectivity' in policy coordination, facilities, Un-impeded trade, financial integration and people to people bond representing it as China's priorities for cooperation.<sup>7</sup> Diplomacy based on this module is shifting the world politics into a new vision of shared future.

Complexity of global affairs in relation to the above mentioned scenario consists then of two opposing trends. The United States of America's propagation of global monopoly representing the western dominance and the Chinese dream of shared future. Even if nations often tend to use powers for protecting their interests

<sup>5</sup> The National Security Strategy of the United States of America, The White House, December 2017, p.45, available at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/NSS-Final-12-18-2017-0905.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> Mikhail Molchanov, 'How solid is Donald Trump's Asia Strategy?' *ASIA TIMES*, 01 January 2018 available at <http://www.atimes.com/trumps-asian0strategy-solid>, (accessed on 02/06/2019).

<sup>7</sup> HONGJIAN CUI, THE BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE AND ITS IMPACT ON ASIA-EUROPE CONNECTIVITY, Chinese Institute of international studies , Beijing , 13, (2016).

and gaining benefits from interactions with the international community, they are not acting with the *strategy of balancing power* for containing others. The idea behind protecting interests and gaining benefits must be construed or seen as a *strategy to foster economic cooperation* and promote an ambience congenial for international peace. The principle of *zero-sum game* has already been disregarded by the Charter of the United Nations as a genuine principle. Still, it is not safe to argue that *power* is not an essential element of international relations in practice. Hence the world order is rather not threatened by the rise of China but by the *fear psyche of the west of losing its monopoly*. Hence it represents a strategy to *contain china* as well as other countries not liked by them. India another rising power is not distinct to this ideology and implications caused by it. At face value this might seem incorrect, however an analysis of the deep seated intent of the western powers portray a different scenario. Seen from this perspective, western presence, particularly the American presence in the India Ocean *will work as a strategy of containing India as well*. By securing a dense presence on the Indian Ocean; United States wants to make sure that its objectives are not negatively affected by China or Iran. As in flip side of the coin it is noticeable from careful analyses that the American policy on the Indian Ocean is also centered on the strategy of cutting off India's closer communication and relation with Iran and Russia. This represents a *double containment strategy* opted by the western powers to contain India as well as China. Criticism of Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) by a section of western media and scholars and particularly the dubbing of the current government in India as a 'fascist force' in the Raisana dialogue 2016 further illustrates the opposite stance the west carries with regards to India.

Further a situation of non-demystified friendliness is created by the west with India to distance India's relation with China. This would in turn linger the transformation of the entire Asia into a prosperous one. *Double Containment strategy* seems to be motivated mainly by the following reasons<sup>8</sup>:

1. To prevent China and India from emerging as the major stakeholders and key players in the global affairs both in terms of political as well as economic prowess.
2. To keep intact the monopoly of western framework and assumptions in international affairs.

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<sup>8</sup> 'Why is China Containment US's Responsibility?' *New max*, 17 November 2017 available at <http://www.newsmax.com/patrickbuchanan/china-US-power-asia/2017/11/16/id/826708/>, (accessed on 02/02/2018).

3. To prevent China from accomplishing the vision of 'Common destiny and shared future' that would bolster the prospect of New World order, thus challenging the existing world order head on.
4. To maintain its sphere of influence within the Indo pacific region as dominant, thus, limiting the sphere of influence that India and China may have in the region.
5. To prevent the realization of the 'Asian Century'.

Within this backdrop of changing diorama of international politics the rise of China and India should not be looked at only through western assumptions. Rather the fact that this rise shows far less resort to violence, subversion and other forms of intervention are indicative of a peaceful rise, which runs in contradiction to the western assumption. The absence of neo-colonial or non-dominant zeal in rise up is an important attribute to the peaceful rise .the evidence of non-colonial or non dominant attitude consists of commitment, and compliance thereof to avoid engagement in any kind of violent and subversive activities or aggression.<sup>9</sup> Thus, the rise of China and India as crucial players in international politics may be rather helpful in breaking the *persisting regressive status quo in the realm of world politics* and propelling towards a rational and just global system. We have enough reasons, in the perspective of the vastness of international laws and mechanisms in the present world, to think and deem that the rise of new nations may unleash better outcomes. They may contribute to inventing a new world order and prevent evils coming out of protectionism, neo-liberalism and neo-colonialism.

### **Nepal's Political Instability and its Geopolitical Significance**

While the significant rise of China and India is witnessed in recent decades, Nepal a country which acts as a bridge between both of these rising powers plunged at the same time into an unending political instability chaos and destruction of economy. In the very positive landscape of economic and political developments in China and India, Nepal's underdevelopment and political instability looms large as a paradox. Nepal Still languishes being a least developed country. This is where the geopolitical significance of Nepal becomes relevant to the unending political instability and underdeveloped status. Nepal being a bridge between two powerful neighbors China and India draws a lot of attention from the west. This 'attention' is intended to:

<sup>9</sup> David Mac Neil, 'Noam Chomsky: Truth to power', *THE JAPAN TIMES*, 22 February 2014, available at <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2014/02/22/world>.

1. Strengthen the encirclement of China and enhance western Influence in the borders.
2. Push Indo – US relations in direction that serves US interests.<sup>10</sup>
3. Usage of Nepal as a ‘window’ to use intelligence and surveillance facilities particularly aimed at monitoring developments in relation to South Asia, Central Asia and particularly Nepal’s Neighbors China and India.<sup>11</sup>

By virtue of this unwanted ‘attention’ from the west Nepal seems to have been a scapegoat of strategy employed by the western powers to contain both India and China. *Nepal’s territory was used as a cockpit to execute this interest of containment.* A politically and economically stable Nepal would not be apt for the application of this strategy. Hence to ensure the instability in both political and economic terms the following activities were done:

### 1. Transplantation of Neo-liberalism:

The most prominent after effects of neo-liberal policies in Nepalese context can be visualized after 1990’s political change. It was disastrously used to destroy the nascent foundation of industrialization and public undertakings. The structural adjustment policy used by IMF and World Bank and western donor agencies destroyed the rising trend of industrial endeavors. The Financial system was thrown into the hands of middle man and unethical corporatists as of result a repercussion to this. The industrial growth that had reached to about 16 per cent in the early 1990’s was forced to deteriorate to minus 6 percent in 2002. As a result of neo liberalist game plan several growing industries were destroyed. Butwal Thread Factory, Himal Cement Factory, Birgunj Sugar Mill, Agricultural Equipment factory, Trolley Bus, Nepal National Construction Company, Nepal Engineering Consultancy Service Centre, Nepal National Computer Centre, Harisiddhi Brick Factory, Hetauda Clothing Factory, Rosin and Turpentine Factory, Nepal Ropeway, Janakpur Tobacco Factory, Godawari Marble Industry, Godawari Iron, Biratnagar Jute Mill, Herbal Processing Plant, National Trading Limited and many more public undertakings were auctioned in the name of liberalization. Thus, public control in the industrial sector was fully destroyed.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>10</sup> The National Security Strategy of the United States of America, The White House , December 2017, p.45 available at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/NSS-Final-12-18-2017-0905>. (accessed on 07/02/2019).

<sup>11</sup> Li Tao, *From yam to Bridge: China’s One belt one road initiative presents a great opportunity for Nepal due to its strategic location*, Nepal Institute for Strategic Studies, (2017).

<sup>12</sup> Sunil Narsingh Raj Bhandari , *‘Inequality of income and Wealth Distribution in Nepal’*, Ph.D Thesis, University Of Lugano, Faculty of Economics, at 43, (2005) available at <https://doc.rero.ch/record/5697/files/2005ECO003>. (accessed on 2/05/2019).

## 2. The Dampening of Communist Revolutionary Spirit:

The transplantation of liberalization as mentioned above was primarily done to institutionalize western liberal political structure. This would in turn in terms of western assume prevent the rise of communists' in Nepal. Engagement of INGO's and NGO's in development activities with slogan of human rights and the rule of law was deeply designed agenda. This Scheme would formally establish a system of civic opposition to state's institutions, thus destroying their effectiveness and credibility. As of now, they are fully contaminated and stained in terms of effectiveness as well as credibility. The INGO's and NGO's were deemed to provide an alternative platform or a kind of parallel government to introduce and institutionalize the neo-liberalist agenda in Nepal. They were effective instruments of taking Nepalese State into control of the western power block.

Contrary to western power blocks assumption the communists emerged as powerful stakeholders in Nepalese polity after 1990. The enthusiastic and vibrant local organizations working towards change which was ran through party workers with high dedication and spirit became a challenge to West's agenda. Hence to dampen the communist revolutionary spirit NGO's were regarded as effective instruments. The then CPN (UML) was a particular target of this. The intellectuals and party workers related to CPN(UML) were given massive reach to the western funding through several NGO's and INGO's. After 1990's change which restored multiparty democracy in Nepal, it opened the door for entry of foreign non-nongovernmental organizations (FNGO's). The glaring fact that there are more than 254 FNGO's and INGO's actively engaged in Nepal point out to the intensity of intrusion done through them.<sup>13</sup>

## 3. Proselytization through Christianity:

The International organizations and foreign non-governmental organizations were not only driven towards dampening of communist spirit. Rather they were also titled onwards promoting Christianity. Amongst the 254 FNGO's and INGO's as mentioned above, 15 per cent are engaged in promoting Christianity.<sup>14</sup> They are seen to be carrying out activities under the pretension

<sup>13</sup> List of INGOs Working under Agreement with Social Welfare Council, SWC, Fiscal Year 2072/073 (FalgunMasanta) available at <http://www.swc.org.np/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/List-of-INGOs-2072-073-Falgun-Masant>. (accessed on 2/07/2019).

<sup>14</sup> John Whelpton, 'Christianity and Nepali Society', 3/12/2012 available at [https://soscbaha.org/downloads/lecture\\_series/lx/lecture\\_lx.pdf](https://soscbaha.org/downloads/lecture_series/lx/lecture_lx.pdf), (accessed on 2/07/2010)

of development activities.<sup>15</sup> These FNGO's and INGO's have also been able to invoke the doctrine of 'religious secularism', thus, establishing solid constitutional grounds for recognition and growth of religious proselytization of Hindus and Buddhist's into Christianity. Marginalized communities were the primary target of proselytization. According to the statistics of the social welfare council of Nepal, there are 39, 759 NGO's in a small country like Nepal. Similarly 254 FNGO's and international non-governmental organizations are working in various sectors. Reportedly, NGO's from 26 countries are engaged in Nepal, some of them are solely engaged in proselytizing Nepalese people to Christianity. 53 FNGO's are hailed only from the United States of America, followed by 29 FNGO's from the United Kingdom and 12 from Germany. These FNGO's are seen as playing crucial roles in fuming social unrests in Nepal in the pretext of development activities.<sup>16</sup>

#### 4. Diversion of Development Agendas and National Issues:

The western power block were aware that a politically and economically fragile Nepal was required to implement their containment strategy against China and India. For this purpose in a calculated manner the scheme of ethnic cleavage followed by the notion of federalization was injected into Nepalese politics. This was primarily done subsequent to the 1990's change of Nepal into a multiparty democracy. The academic work relevant to 'identity politics' was brought into mainstream at the same time. The primary objective of this was to instill a perception within the Nepalese people at large about the dissimilarity and sense of discrimination by one group over others. The Khasa Arya ethnic group who speak Nepali language and practice Hinduism were considered within this academic discourse to be the group dominating over other ethnic groups. Considering this, without doubt Nepal contains several groups of population with distinct ethnic origin but another equally true fact is that Nepal has been a harmoniously stable nation in terms of ethnic diversity. In its history, no one ethnic group has fumed racial or ethnic hatred to another group. Each group seems conservative to accept persons within its cultural framework form another group, but each has a culture of respecting another group and its culture. Inviolability of another's culture or religion is a rule of Nepalese society.

<sup>15</sup> DhananjayaPoudyal, 'INGOs vs. self', *My Republica*, 31 July 2015 available at <http://admin.myrepublica.com/blog1/story/25531/ingo-vs-self.html>, (accessed on 2/07/2019)

<sup>16</sup> Rajendra Karkee & Jude Comfort, 'NGOs, Foreign Aid, and Development in Nepal', *Frontiers in Public Health*, 24 August 2016 available at, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4995364/#B8>, (accessed on 7/02/2019).



This activity was largely carried out to weaken Nepal's socio-cultural mosaic so that the west's agenda of containment could easily be executed in politically instable Nepal. Even after the change of 2006 and during the tenure of both the constituent assemblies, the notion of ethnic federalism was heavily promoted by FNGO's and INGO's. UNDP Constituent Assembly Support conducted several programs titled towards it, along with some other organizations. Ethnic identity based federalism was promoted as the only durable means of peace process in Nepal.<sup>17</sup> With this Nepal's zeal towards economic development was diverted towards other issue such as identity politics. However the second constituent assembly which promulgated the Constitution of Nepal did not include the idea of state restructuring and federalism based on ethnic identity and was saved from perpetually being thrown into a chaos of ethnic conflict. The major intention for this push towards ethnic identity based federalism by the INGO's and FNGO's was to divide Nepal under the rubric of state restructuring and federalism. The hidden goal was to enshrine into the constitution a plan of ethnic federalism, thus perpetually throwing Nepal into a chaos of ethnic conflict leading to national disintegration.

After this was unsuccessful, Nepal was thrown immediately into a state of post-constitution conflict. Various sections of Nepalese society disillusioned by identity politics were encouraged to stand against the newly promulgated constitution. Even in the present context reverberations of identity politics can still be felt.

##### **5. Blocking of China's Presence in Nepal's Politics and Development Endeavors:**

In economic terms several public enterprises established by China as friendly assistance was destroyed. They were indiscriminately auctioned to private individuals in a manner of sabotage. Bansbari Shoe Factory established by the Government of China as a gift to Nepal was sold to an Indian company in a heavily devalued manner. To uproot China's presence from Nepal was a latent agenda behind this. Bhrikuti Paper Factory, another gift of China to Nepal was also subsequently closed within the neoliberal design and foreign company's access to Nepalese paper market was created. Including this removal of Trolley-Bus transportation system, which was a gift of China, represented a humiliating treatment to China's good faith to Nepal's

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<sup>17</sup> Yash Ghai & Jill Cottrell, 'Roadmap to a new Constitution,' available at <http://www.constitutionnet.org/sites/default/files/Roadmap%20English.pdf> (accessed on 5/02/2019)

development endeavors.<sup>18</sup> The Political leadership here lacked the prudence to flourish relationship with China. Western power blocks desire to get unnoticed in this remained successful, no attention was given to their strategy to limit China's presence in Nepal. There was no attention paid towards taking China into confidence for help to resolve the political crisis in Nepal. China was ignored for a long time under the pretext that all the political problems in Nepal could be resolved through help from India. Seemingly Nepal gained an image of Indian satellite state in matters of political affairs, and China's role was limited. The fact about how Khampa Rebellion<sup>19</sup> was orchestrated and the activities done before it, clearly portray that the western power blocks do not want China's presence in Nepal.

At some point of time, the Tibetan dissidents chose Nepal's territory to launch an insurgency against China, So, they had been scattered to different high hills of Nepal and organized themselves into a Guerrilla force. This mission was openly supported by the CIA. As displayed by several annals, the CIA parachuted four groups of Guerrillas in the Chinese border via Nepal, in between 1959-60. At some point of time, the Tibetan dissidents chose Nepal's territory to launch an insurgency against China, So, they had been scattered to different high hills of Nepal and organized themselves into a Guerrilla force. This mission was openly supported by the CIA. As displayed by several annals, the CIA parachuted four groups of Guerrillas in the Chinese border via Nepal , in between 1959-60<sup>20</sup>.

In addition to this, it further evidences geopolitical significance of Nepal for the west in terms of containment of China. In 1954 , the United Mission to Nepal , a Christian missionary organization came to Nepal on Royal government's request. An intensive lobby of some western agencies convinced the royal government of Nepal to Formally concede to the request of the missionary and to allow it to carry out its activities. In 1956, SIL international ( Formerly called as Summer institute of Linguistics, a worldwide Christian non-profit making organization came to Nepal with a pretext of helping Nepal to develop its linguistic science. It caused serious harm to Nepali language. Its primary agenda was to launch campaign for Christianity

<sup>18</sup> Sunil Narsingh Raj Bhandari, '*Inequality of income and Wealth Distribution in Nepal*', Ph.D Thesis, University of Lugano, Faculty of Economics, 2005, p. 43 available at <https://doc.ero.ch/record/5697/files/2005ECO003>.(accessed on 2/05/2019)

<sup>19</sup> CAROLE McGRANAHAN, *ARRESTED HISTORIES TIBET, CIA AND MEMOIRIES OF A FORGOTTEN WAR*, Durham, Duke University Press, 152, (2010).

<sup>20</sup> Memorandum for the Special Group <https://history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1964-68v30/d337>, (accessed on 02/05/2019)

and provide support to the political sabotage in Tibet. The Involvement of United States of America was prominent in this mission. Its activities involved supporting Tibetan rebels to organize subversive activities in China's Tibet. This organization had its own helicopter for transportation, and regularly flew to the northern districts of Nepal. In 1976, this organization was asked to leave Nepal immediately for its unwanted activities. On the other hand, most European countries through their several outfits carried out anti-communist and anti-China activities from Nepal. Some European countries engaged their activities to educate and prepare Tibetans taking asylum in Nepal, which ultimately rose in the form of Khampa rebellion.

A weaker Nepal is a desired choice for the western power block. Hence, the above mentioned activities and affairs were orchestrated with an underlying goal to keep Nepal under the western leverage and to implement the *Double Containment Strategy*. It is now evidenced that Nepal's political instability is an outcome of the double containment strategy opted by the western power block. Explicably, Nepal's political crisis and instability is not merely an outcome of Nepal's internal political failure, rather the instability is a strategic outcome of the west to contain China and maintain surveillance over India's relation with Russia and Iran. With this strategic goal, the western power blocks maintain relations with Countries like Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan and so on, even if their political significance in the international affairs is negligible. Nepal's geopolitical location makes it vital for executing the strategic objective against India and China. It has been fully experimented in the past. The United States project on Himalayan Boundary Countries in the 1960's had been primarily mooted out to maintain checks against China and India, which saw a forceful resentment of India. This Project was implemented from Nepal.

Nepal's Strategic placement between China and India is the pulling factor for the western strategic involvement in Nepal. Since the beginning, the American presence through aid had strategic contours. The focus on subverting communism thus remained a consistent focus of the US policy in Nepal.<sup>21</sup> Keeping China and India divided is also one of the major strategic thrusts of the Double Containment strategy. This factor also heightened the significance of Nepal's geopolitical location as a strategic hotspot. With this

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<sup>21</sup> Monalisa Adhikari, 'Renewed American Engagement with Nepal's Maoists', *Institute of Defense Studies and Analysis*, 27 November 2012 available at [http://idsa.in/issuebrief/Renewed American Engagement with Nepal's Maoists,\\_MAdhikari](http://idsa.in/issuebrief/Renewed American Engagement with Nepal's Maoists,_MAdhikari), (accessed on 02/05/2019).

intention of keeping intact the double containment strategy of China and India through Nepal the game is still going on. The pernicious effort to confuse the masses within Nepal and to manufacture conflict is still in execution. If kept unchecked and unresolved, this would derail Nepal from its development prospects, and more importantly it would be fatal in strategic terms to both India and China.

### Way Forward

China, Nepal and India have not adequately been able to grasp the spectrum of geopolitical strategy applied in Nepal by the western powers. The leadership and the think tanks including the strategic stakeholders in all the three countries have failed to understand the strategic maneuvers hence applied. Thus, offering the foreign agencies an unrestricted and unhinged ground of play. China's think tank made a mistake by simply believing that Nepal's Political Instability was an outcome of its internal political crisis. As the evidence portrays the reality has been that western foreign agencies have been the major players in Nepal's unending political chaos and instability. India being mystified by western strategic maneuvers has failed to see the truth. Engaged in macro management of Nepal's political affairs it has failed to understand the latent truth behind western power blocks intent. Rather being under the illusion of western power blocks India has been seeing western power blocks maneuvers in Nepal as being beneficial to them and only targeted against China's encirclement and containment. A section of Indian Leadership and Think tank, heavily influenced by the western perception and policies saw their benefits from meddling of the western foreign agencies in Nepal, as they believed it was targeted towards the Containment of China and not in any way detrimental to their country. They believe that the powerful China is a threat to Indian security System. This has been a grave mistake in India's part as breaking the Indian cultural life is an equally important strategy opted by the west. In addition to this with India's relation being lively with Iran and Russia, India is not beyond the sphere of Western power bloc's containment strategy. In summary the unending series of political instability has gone unchecked without understanding it as being attached to the double containment strategy opted by the western power blocks primarily because of the following reasons:

1. Gape in understanding of China's think tank and diplomatic missions that the '*political instability in Nepal is not only an internal problem of Nepal,*' rather it is repercussion of the strategy opted by the western power blocks to contain China. From 1960s Nepal faced the Western strategy of disturbing

Tibet by providing financial and other strategic support to Tibetan fugitives. Nepal worked boldly to suppress the Khampa attacks in Tibet using Nepal's territory. This action of Nepal was costly for tiny underdeveloped Nepal. China was sympathetic to Nepal but missed to foresee about fallouts Nepal was going to face in the days to come. China's think-tanks had limited communication to Nepalese counterparts. Further, the Nepalese counterpart was not dependable as significant part of it was infested by those people who deceptively served the Western interest. The situation is not fully improved even today. Many people who visit China every year on invitation of China side do not serve the interest of Nepal-China better relations.

2. India being mystified by the strategy opted by western power block has been busy with policy of micro-management of internal affairs of Nepal. With this policy orientation, it has failed to see the consequences of the *containment strategy* opted by the west upon itself. Any kind of intrusion of the West in Nepal negatively affecting the interest of China is welcomed by India, which, in fact, poses a negative impact India either. By being able to keep India silent on Western intrusion and containment game against, Nepal has been a safe haven for the Western block's strategic activities against China, but also indirectly against India. It implies that Nepal alone is the victim of fallouts.
3. Nepal has so far failed to understand this dynamics itself and convince China and India about the evidenced connection. Nepalese leaders seem unaware of this game. Huge masses of Nepalese intellectuals and relatives of Nepalese leaders and bureaucrats are migrated to Western countries, thus forming a strong Diaspora. Nepalese policies are influenced by this Diaspora.
4. Think tanks and strategic stakeholders in China, India and Nepal have failed to understand the connected dynamics between Nepal's political instability and containment strategy opted by the west.

The *double containment strategy* opted by the west upon China and India through Nepal, and the resulting political instability and languishing state of underdevelopment can be resolved if:

1. Nepal is able to Convince both China and India to help it uplift from the languished situation of underdevelopment.
2. Nepal and China can jointly take confidence of India in assuring that there no negative impact through economic ties with China. This can be done by

enhancing connectivity and dialogue among intellectuals, students, journalists and think-tanks of three countries. Nepalese institutions can play vital role. This potentiality is not harnessed by China.

3. China, India and Nepal must break the mystified perspective of insecurity that might arise of an effective trilateral relation. BRI is a right platform. However, there is little done to clarify the misconception of Indian intellectuals. Nepalese intellectuals can effectively do it, if Chinese think-tank and institutions prefer to shift strategies to develop dialogue with Indian counterparts through Nepal.
4. A politically stable Nepal is to be understood as a need for both China and India.

China, India and Nepal need to come together in an effective manner if the *double containment strategy* is to be countered meaningfully. India must give up the *fear psyche* it has in making economic ties with China through Nepal. The Himalayan corridor can be an effective way out, and this idea can be promoted by initiating projects between China and Nepal. Nepal's bureaucratic unpreparedness and political indecisiveness are major hurdles in this regard. These problems can be handled successfully by increased communication between think-tanks and people to people level communications. China must be able to select credible people and institutions to promote the strategy for application of BRI in Nepal.

The two civilizations—India and China—can stand side by side with a sense of harmony. The 1962 war between two countries was ignited mainly by some contentious issue regarding extended shared borders, for which the British colonial rulers are primarily responsible. These two countries historically have had mutually learned to respect each other and avoid wars, they are heavily influence by each other's knowledge and traditions. Their scholars visited each other's country in the past which can be exemplified by the Chinese monk Fi Xian. He was the first one to visit Nepal and India during 4<sup>th</sup> century. The harmonious co-existence and mutual respect they have towards their civilizations in history is unique and idiosyncratic in nature. Hence there is no reason for them to perceive each other as threats. In 7<sup>th</sup> Century, Nepal had rescued Wang Xuance's mission visiting Maghad from ill-treatment of a dissident general there. Nepal learned to produce paper and made it an exportable commodity. Nepal and China have been dependable friends for last 1600 years, at least. Rather than

their own perceptive association, the problem in the coeval situation between India and China is a game of outsiders. Relation between India and China are not merely diplomatic in nature but rather of cultural and civilizational connectivity, hence the *fear psyche* of each other being termed as threats is hollow. This misperception if kept might turn into a jeopardizing factor for the flourishing economic development of Asia and darken the prospect of Asia becoming an economic hub.

Hence the Indo-China trust and friendship is vital for resolving several protracted problems of Asia. A developed trust between China and India will transform the rising Asia into a centre of economic prosperity and perpetual peace. This is desired by the common people from Asia. If so happens, India's independent collaboration with China, Russia and other Asian countries will enlarge the momentum for opportunities for bigger economic cooperation in the region and beyond. Such relation would eventually explore solutions for several critical problems in Asia, such as Indo-Pakistan loggerhead in Kashmir dispute, the Indo-China stalemate of border issues, Korean crisis and problems of terrorism. A better relation between these two countries is therefore not only desirable but also inevitable.

The mutual trust between them will definitely result in fostering a situation that will let the entire South Asia to live in peace and achieve prosperity. Increased economic cooperation is a prelude for fostering political trust between them. This will in turn lead to a conducive for environment needing settlement of their political problems such as border disputes. In this perspective, China, India, Nepal and South Asia as a whole, may tackle the *containment strategy opted by western power block* by a way of promoting the partnership in economic development and increased connectivity. The role of Chinese institutions and think tank is bigger. They should come out with more pro-actively. The participation of Chinese students and intellectuals in dialogues conducted by South Asian countries should be encouraging and wider. For this the BRI might prove to be instrumental. BRI in the light of long standing Asian values of avoiding provocation and seeking aggression can be a major driving force even beyond connection between South Asia and China to a prospect of new form of globalization as a whole. This aspiration of globalization can be taken as being different from the western idea of Globalism. The primary reason for this is because China is not pursuing a Universalist approach seeking to standardize the world with its ideas or propositions. It is not imposing its political and governance system on other

countries, it has firmly held that the Chinese Socialism bears its own characteristics, hence, not being exportable.

India needs to give up its fear psyche of Chinese threat<sup>22</sup> and join in with this venture of connecting South Asia with China and help in the realization of new form of globalization as a whole. Darshan Baruah, an Indian analyst writes, “As China moves ahead with its ambitious plan to create economic corridors across the subcontinent and the Indian Ocean, New Delhi must pay close attention to the strategic economic developments in nations such as Sri Lanka and Nepal” analyses done by him exemplifies the fear psyche embedded in the think tank within India. By doing so, China and India would both be able to fend off the double containment strategy opted upon it by the west. For creating this, the Trans-Himalayan economic corridor between China, India and Nepal may be a quintessential foundation. Belt and road initiative (BRI) is a massive opportunity in this context. Li Tao, a professor at the institute of South Asian studies in Sinchuan University says, “Nepal is a node linking the Silk Route Economic belt and the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Maritime Silk Road. Nepal interlinks BCIM and CPEC, the two major economic corridors.”<sup>23</sup> The BRI is an opportunity for Nepal’s economic development. The Trans-Himalayan economic corridor would be a reliable rescuer of Nepal from the current unbecoming situation of political and economic instability. It would thus frustrate the double containment strategy opted by the west through Nepal upon China and India and support Nepal in transforming from the so called ‘yam’ between China and India, to a bridge between the two prospective superpowers.

Developed Nepal economically can play greater role in South Asian political scenario, and this would be good for both China and India. However, China being affected by the *western containment strategy and encirclement*, Nepal’s development will contribute to address western strategy against China, thus contributing to China’s security. China’s pro-active engagement in Nepal’s development is inevitable. However, it is seen that China seems to understand the political instability in Nepal as an outcome of its internal product. This notion should be changed rigorously and promptly. China should, therefore, view seriously on the following engagement strategies:

<sup>22</sup> Darshana Baruah, ‘Nepal Joined Belt and Road. What Does that Mean for India?’ *Carnegie India*, 15 May 15 2017 available at <https://carnegieindia.org/2017/05/15/nepaljoined-belt-and-road.-what-does-that-mean-for-india-pub-69973>, (accessed on 2/05/2019).

<sup>23</sup> Li Tao, ‘From Yam to Bridge: China-Nepal Relations from OBOR Perspective’, *China-Nepal Think-Tank Conference 2017*, Xinhua News Agency, Kathmandu, Nepal, 2, (January 17-18, 2017).



- (a) Building reciprocal cooperation between institutions –China should implement one window policy to deal with Nepalese institutions but several institutions must develop working relations for framing shared ideas.
- (b) Exchange between two countries' think tank should be researched-based and between credible institutions.
- (c) Chinese and Nepalese sides must work out BRI-based common interest as a launching pad of cooperation.

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