

Conflict Between India and China and Its Impact on Afghanistan

Muhammad Noman^a

Abstract: This India–China conflict directly affects Afghanistan's territory politically and economically, especially in terms of security, especially when it comes to territorial disputes and geopolitical competition. This paper pays attention to the dynamics of the India–China rivalry and the controversial impact of this rivalry with Afghanistan, which is of strategic importance in South Asia. The study, through Realism and Dependency Theory application, presents the origins and reasons for actions taken by India and China in Afghanistan, arguing on the fact that these two countries invest in diverse development, governance, and regional security in their diverse motivations and strategies toward Afghanistan. India uses soft power through its infrastructure development, humanitarian aid, and democratic institution building as a counterweight to Pakistan's influence while encouraging longer-term partnership development. China, on the other hand, is pursuing a pragmatic economic engagement approach through the Belt and Road Initiative and also links the security concerns relevant to its Xinjiang region. Thus, Afghanistan is located right at the convergence of these interests but would figure out how to balance conflicting relationships while handling internal instability. The analysis really describes many impacts: fragmented development approaches, the emergence of political differences, and overlapping security strategies, among others. The conclusion drawn from the discussion in this article is that Afghanistan will be able to determine its stability and prosperity by how the country chooses to navigate these dynamics. The paper's argument is for collective regional frameworks as the way to take the adverse effects of such conflicts and advance a balanced approach to initiatives and security.

Keywords: India, China, Afghanistan, Conflict, Territorial Disputes, Xingjiang Region, Political Difference

Introduction

Tensions between India and China present one of the biggest geostrategic conflicts in Asia, extending far beyond their borders. Afghanistan's most strategic crossroads, with many conflicts now embodying such rivalry. Both India and China have now laid their hold on the political, economic, and security domains of Afghanistan, seeking to further their strategic interests. The aftermath of the U.S. withdrawal gives credence to the Afghanistan vulnerability that transforms it into a critical ground for external powers to assert their hegemony. Whereas India admits development aid without tough diplomacy, China seeks investments because of the advantages generated by the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

India's involvement in Afghanistan has primarily revolved around building infrastructure, fostering education, and providing humanitarian aid. It is by such means that India has won the accolades of the Afghan people and has politically challenged other competing nations, such as Pakistan and with particular reference to China. In contrast, China's involvement in Afghanistan is mainly because of its core national interest in securing trade routes and access to natural resources and threats to the security of its western borders, primarily in the Xinjiang region.

Afghanistan is the land bridge between South Asia, Central Asia, and the Middle East, making it a prize for most geostrategic actors. The untapped resources of this country—from rare earth metals to

^a Student of BS Political Science, Department of Political Science and International Relations, University of Management & Technology, Lahore, Punjab, Pakistan. Email: F2022126017@umt.edu.pk

mineral deposits–give additional strategic importance to Afghanistan. Nevertheless, the internal instability, weak governance, and foreign history of interference make it challenging for external powers to work within Afghanistan. Despite all these challenges, India and China are deeply invested in shalu.

The India–China rivalry in Afghanistan gets exquisitely complicated because they have different world views and state policies. While India advocates a democratic and people–centric development model, China emphasizes state–led initiatives with minimal political misuse. Such consequences usually yield an interesting tussle between the two greats, and this tussle is most likely to find grounds in a country as volatile and strategically significant as Afghanistan. The real fine print of this war must be understood to comprehend much of the dynamics that go into the making of South Asian geopolitics and such extra–regional influence that shapes the landscape of Afghanistan.

What role does India–China competition play in Afghanistan concerning its political stability, security environment, and economic development?

The research question touches upon the complex interplay of strategies between India and China in Afghanistan and their effect on the country going forth. The study adopting this question aims to find out the reasons behind their actions in Afghanistan and how their powers affect Afghanistan and the subsequent region in the globe. However, it still limits the fact that competition between the two countries is southern as well as northern neighbor of Afghanistan for playing pivotal roles in its political stability, internal environment, and economic development on their rival interests in the region. Afghanistan occupies a uniquely strategic position between all three–India, China and Pakistan–and is thus the hub of an increasingly complicated web of geopolitical rivalry. Besides those domestic internal dynamics impacting Afghanistan, both India and China want to engage Afghanistan in part to extend their influence over securing their own national interests.

Theoretical Framework

The inquiry takes an anchorage in Realism and Dependency Theory, which gives insight into strategic interests and power dynamics in regard to the India–China rivalry and its effects upon Afghanistan.

Reality States

Realism sees the struggle at state level where states fight over power and make contributions in the national interests. This is apparent in how India and China want to gain an entry through Afghanistan that gives geopolitical leverage. Afghanistan is, essentially, a battleground between the two countries for asserting strength, minimizing security threats, or economically leveraging one over the other. Realism emphasizes the competition for strategic resources, trade routes, and political alignments in Afghanistan.

India's investments in Afghanistan Salma Dam and Zaranj–Delaram highway, education programs, and so on– reveal the realist agenda in India that sees the possibility of countering Pakistani hegemony and establishing a base for its influence and activity in the region. Thus, in the same vein, China's BRI with regard to Afghanistan shows that it is striving toward expanding its economic and strategic reach across Asia by connecting Central and South Asia with the Middle Eastern route through Afghanistan.

Dependency Theory

It is in this context of difference of opinions that Dependency Theory seeks to explain the economic and infrastructural dependence of Afghanistan on external powers like India and China. Such dependencies would now make Afghanistan vulnerable to external forces, bringing about a common hue in both countries in terms of their interference in policy and governance issues. Afghanistan's involvement in one such development scheme– either the BRI or that propounded by India further establishes it as a dependent player in the regional geopolitical scheme.

This is the same argument that would explain how economic dependence on external powers makes sovereignty questionable for Afghanistan. A traditional case of these investments is the vast deposits of investment coming from China in many infrastructures and mining projects along with the developmental

aid from India, which would operate in the way that Afghanistan has to meet a lot of its internal decisions with the priorities of these external actors. This dependency has made it even more porous and vulnerable.

Historical Context

The roots of the conflicting relations between India and China regarding Afghanistan have their common history of competition against each other and different approaches to foreign policy. While India had cultural and historical links with the country and soft-power initiatives after 9/11, China's attempts at developing infrastructure and expanding economically through BRI were starkly contrasted against that backdrop. Afghanistan lies in the focus of South and Central Asia and the Middle East, giving another turn to the conflict. In fact, Afghanistan, like everything else, has always been great for major powers' "Great Games." At this juncture, it still serves as a battlefield in the geopolitical context of India and China. The following historical milestones mark the development of India-China relations in Afghanistan:

India and China have been involved in a historic issue of conflict governed largely by historical, political, and territorial issues. One of the peaks of conflict is the border conflict in Aksai Chin and Arunachal Pradesh. The two countries went to war for these areas in 1962. However, despite continuing rounds of talks and agreements, increased tensions have evolved into outbreaks regarding the border, especially along the contested boundaries known as the Line of Actual Control (LAC). India sees growing military activities from China and growing influence in the region as a threat to its stability. China, on the other hand, has slowly been weaving influences into the region using the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) project, which has greatly attached countries in South Asia and beyond to its economy. This further aggravated rivalry with India in terms of its increasingly strategic-important interests in the region, including support for Pakistan. Afghanistan has drawn a lot of attention in this conflict purely because of its geographic location, sandwiched among India, China, and Pakistan. Traditionally, it also stood as a pawn in the larger game of regional rivalry, as both India and China have a stake in Afghanistan's stability. India's deep links with Afghanistan include aid, infrastructure development, and promotion of strategic partnerships. India believes that a stable Afghanistan is essential for regional security and for having some influence over events in that region.

Conversely, China has invested quite a bit in closer ties with Afghanistan, particularly since the Taliban took back power in 2021. The country regards Afghanistan's huge mineral resources and key geographical position as future possibilities for investment and economic cooperation. In addition, China's close relations with Pakistan complicate the geodynamical of Afghanistan, particularly because the former is known to have longstanding tensions with India. Thus, it is not too far-fetched to say that China's intervention in Afghanistan could shift the power balance in South Asia and even tilt it in the broader rivalry of India and China.

Its role in this conflict is now substantially determined by the condition of its security. The armed conflicts, terrorism, and political lack of cohesion within the country are leading to a scenario in which Afghanistan may be exploited by outside regional and international players. It is clearly evident how both India and China have fought to act in shaping Afghanistan's future through diplomacy, military means, and economies, even if these countries strive toward the utmost different ends.

India's Historical Engagement

The ancient trading and cultural ties– yet the relationship of India with Afghanistan does not belong to modern history; all routes, such as those of the Silk Road, came into being and ended in cultural exchanges. After independence, India maintained close ties with almost all Afghan governments except during the rule of the Taliban (1996–2001). After the fall of the Taliban, India immediately became a significant player in Afghanistan's rebuilding exercises, investing in economic infrastructure as well as in education and humanitarian assistance to win hearts and minds and ensure its position against regional rivals.

Historical Engagement with China

It is only a small part of history through which it has passed with respect to Afghanistan because of security concerns regarding the Xinjiang region; with the passing of time and from 2001 onward, it started greasing

its contacts with the country in the economic dimension and even with a strategic partnership. The industrial inclusion of Afghanistan into BRI is a clear indication of how China would go about pragmatically securing its own interests in the region.

Colliding of Rivalries

It is rhetoric of the India-China rivalry in Afghanistan: The geopolitical course of the rivalry describes the rift between the two countries in Afghanistan and includes other factors ranging from territorial disputes, competition for influence over regions, and different ideologies. Even as both states share common grounds regarding stability in Afghanistan in the interest of regional peace, their different approaches often cause people to form allegiances.

From a historical perspective, Afghanistan stands central to the land routes that could link South Asia, Central Asia, and the Middle East, so it is now being targeted as a major geography prize. Besides, the country has vast unexplored natural resources such as rare earth metals and mineral deposits. Even then, Afghanistan's internal instability, weak governance, and history of foreign interventions made it a difficult place to operate.

Key Entities

The India-China conflict's impact on Afghanistan can be understood through the roles of three key entities: India, China, and Afghanistan. Each of these entities has distinct motivations and approaches in their engagement with Afghanistan, shaping the geopolitical landscape of the region and influencing its development, stability, and security.

India as a Strategic Ally and Development Partner

Historically, India has been a considerable ally of Afghanistan, visiting the development aid, infrastructure projects, and humanitarian support. India's main strategic interest attaches to Afghanistan to serve as a counterweight to Pakistan and access Central Asia. The Indian U.S. invasion of Afghanistan in 2001 triggered India to increase its engagement through reconstruction and development programs, which boosted Afghanistan's economy as well as the nation's infrastructure, solidifying India's sway in this region.

Major Indian projects in Afghanistan have been the Salma Dam, known as the Afghan-India Friendship Dam, installed to provide electricity and irrigation benefits to the area, and the Zaranj-Delaram highway, meant to link Afghanistan with Iran for trade, overlooking Pakistan. Other contributions have included health care and education initiatives, such as building hospitals, providing scholarship facilities for Afghan students, and training the civil servants of Afghanistan.

As for political relations, India maintains very strong diplomatic ties with all the successive governments in Afghan history while calling for an Afghan-led, Afghan-owned peace process. It avoids direct military intervention but trains and provides equipment to Afghan security forces. This complements India's foreign policy strategy of promoting regional stability and development without being dragged into direct military conflicts.

In India, engagement with Afghanistan is prompted by security concerns. The possibility that Afghanistan could become a base for militant groups with the support of Pakistan makes it a direct threat to India's national security. Strengthening presence in Afghanistan is part of India's strategy to reaching Pakistan.

China as Pragmatic Investor and Strategic Player

China's role in Afghanistan has grown by leaps and bounds in the last few years, primarily driven by its economic ambitions and security concerns. Its strategic location at the crossroads of Central Asia, South Asia, and the Middle East makes it one of the most vital components of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Infrastructure, mining, and energy investments will be made by China in Afghanistan as a

means of drawing Afghanistan into the broader economic network and giving it access to valuable resources.

One of the largest foreign investments by China in Afghanistan, the Aynak copper mine, is just one instance of the economic interest China holds. Further, the development of the Amu Darya oil fields and the extension of the CPEC to Afghanistan will also be attuned to China's strategic objectives. Both projects will contribute to increased regional connectivity and improvement of economic development for Afghanistan, and they will also serve China's long-term objectives of leading its presence in South Asia.

At the same time, China's engagement with Afghanistan is governed by its security concerns. Internal stability in China is at risk from extremist groups operating in Afghanistan, especially those with possible links to the Xinjiang region. In a bid to address these concerns, China has chosen to engage in a pragmatic dialogue with Taliban and other Afghan stakeholders to ensure that the international community is not perceiving Afghanistan as a haven for anti-China activities. This implies that Beijing has ensured a non-interference and economic development model that guarantees security.

China has also set itself up as a facilitator for peace in Afghanistan. It has called meetings between the Afghans and the Taliban and has also been part of the regional dialogues that would be working towards stability in the regions. All these activities are a reflection of the broader strategy in China's foreign policy.

Afghanistan: A Nation at the Crossroads

Afghanistan has always been a global spine, with both strategic location and resource wealth attesting it in the spotlight of external interest. However, internal instabilities and the reliance on external aid only worsen its ability to manage such external influences. One of the critical areas Afghanistan is involved at that the moment is the India-China rivalry. However, Afghanistan acts both passively and actively in this regard, and while it is acted upon, it also plays a role in making decisions and alignments that shape this conflict's dynamics.

Economically, Afghanistan endowed with foreign investment and aid, which help it to reconstruct and develop its economy. Most significant contributors are countries such as India and China. These two-thirds cost most of their funds to develop sectors such as infrastructure, education, and health. Dependence renders vulnerabilities, as most domestic policies and governance are influenced by the strategic priorities of external benefactors.

In politically engaging with India and China, Afghanistan complements its scopes of manipulating competing interests. Successive Afghan governments have always strived to use these relations to garner investments and promote stability. But the country is still shot by several internal challenges such as weak governance, corruption, and ongoing conflict, which limit its exploitation of foreign assistance.

The security landscape of Afghanistan complicates it further. Today, extremist groups operate in Afghanistan; thus, the present danger of being a proxy battleground for external powers makes such stability in Afghanistan really fragile. India and China, however, have opposite views on Afghanistan-the importance of Afghanistan to both countries'-stability in the region. While India concentrates on development and counter-terrorism, China accentuates economic engagement and pragmatic diplomacy.

Interactions and Dynamics

The interaction between India and China with Afghanistan is a curious blend of competition and cooperation. They both use their investments and diplomacy to stake a claim in Afghanistan- interestingly, in countervailing guidelines to each other. Interests in achieving regional stability and economic growth represent opportunities to finding common ground in these initiatives.

One point of turning for India-China relations was the 2018 Wuhan Summit, where both countries agreed to explore tripartite development projects in Afghanistan. The initiatives remain limited but signify prospects in integration among areas such as infrastructure development and counter-terrorism. But, then again, the rivalry remains a reality, embedding India and China in matters in Afghanistan, each scheming against the other to use Afghanistan to add strategic value to their foreign relations.

Afghanistan—in this matrix—is both a player and yet a pawn. Its strategic locational feature and its claim to wealth in natural resources would make both India and China sit up and take notice, but for the current limitations on the capacity of Afghanistan to assert independence through internal problems. How much maneuvering Afghanistan can do through the competing claims will clearly decide its future stability and development is the real question.

Economic Impacts

The India-China conflict has influenced the economic landscape of Afghanistan both negatively and positively. For that, the economy has been heavily dependent on external aid and investment owing to its decades of war and instability. And to this effect, has emerged with the growing India and China as the influencing factors shaping the economies of Afghanistan according to their strategic interests.

Economic uses include infrastructural developments in India and trade. The Salma dam project and the Zaranj-Delaram highway construction project are examples that have further enhanced Afghanistan's connectivity and energy security. The progressive involvement of India in the agricultural sector and education in Afghanistan has, however, uplifted the local livelihoods through job opportunities and human capital development. India has established vocational training centres and awarded scholarships to Afghan students, purporting such to increase capacity building directly.

China, on the other hand, primarily pursues resource extraction and infrastructure development for Afghanistan under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Both BRI and inclusion of Afghanistan emerged from China's interest to use Afghanistan's strategic geographical position to provide a territorial connectivity network. Aynak copper mine and Amu Darya oil fields are typical case examples of Chinese investment in the natural resources sector, holding a promise to the government of Afghanistan in terms of considerable revenue income. The slow progress with which these projects have been conducted due to security threats and bureaucratic limitations has limited their impact.

Although positive, changes in fortunes brought by India and China in Afghanistan have had their challenges. The competition between the two powers often leads to fragmented development efforts, with each prioritizing projects that serve their strategic goals rather than Afghanistan's holistic needs. This rivalry can result in uneven development, where certain regions or sectors benefit disproportionately, exacerbating existing inequalities. Additionally, Afghanistan's dependence on foreign investments exposes its economy to external pressures, making it vulnerable to shifts in regional geopolitics.

Political Impacts

Therefore, it has become a different dimension in the political landscape of Afghanistan since the India-China rivalry has taken a plunge, hitting the affairs of the two countries and influencing the governance of Afghanistan vis-a-vis their strategic interests. While India pushes forward to develop democratic institutions, made into an Afghan-led peace process, and China upon stability and aiming for pragmatic diplomacy posing its credits on every faction even tacitly with embedded Taliban channels. India bears all itself for an interactive institution-building phenomenon in Afghanistan through activities like capacity building of Afghan civil servants and funding such institutions in political activity terms.

In Afghanistan, these are thus considered the hallmarks of India's political engagement: democratic governance engagement and closeness to governments of various Afghan regimes. India's role in Afghanistan is about strengthening its governance institutions. Consider, for example, the supported capacity-building initiatives for Afghan civil servants and political institution funding. Indian policy from Afghanistan's perspective, and hence towards Afghan affairs in general, marks the position as inclusive and durable when pegged against Afghanistan synthesis solutions to the current conflict.

In contrast to such features that typify India's democratic construct, China argues non-interference and later stability as its political tenet. In nominee terms, that means China's official contact established with the Taliban and other Afghan groups so it could safeguard its interests from disruptiveness while keeping alive relations with these groups. In this case, by adopting a realistic way, this country has been able to create an ecological environment and politics in which China could be a

mediator in the political process of Afghanistan for using its clout to develop efforts toward negotiation and peaceful settlement.

These differences in political paradigms adopted by India and China indeed present openings and hurdles for Afghanistan at the same time. While the presence of these two countries brings in needed resource and expertise input toward the direction of governance and conflict resolution, they also leave ripples of disparate or incoherent international force in the stabilization effort within Afghanistan, with each country pursuing its agenda at thus

Security Impacts

The conflict between India and China plays an important role in the security dynamic of Afghanistan. Both India and China have prescribed strategies that take into account their perceptions of Afghanistan as crucial to national security. But because of their divergent approaches, they often find themselves having conflicting priorities resulting in unintended outcomes with regard to the Afghan security environment.

India's cooperation with Afghanistan in terms of security is mainly on counter-terrorism and capacity-building. Training and equipping Afghanistan's security forces are India's efforts aimed at enlarging Afghanistan's capability to tackle terrorism and manage internal security. Other Indian investments in strategic facilities, especially roads and communication lines, also add to the resilience of Afghanistan against security threats. On the other hand, India is seen as meddling in Afghanistan by Pakistan, which eyes India as trying to encircle and undermine its prestige in the region. It adds more heat to already hot regional tension and makes the Afghan security landscape diabolical.

Most important in the human security concerns of China regarding Afghanistan is alienation from extremist states and situations that could lead to destabilization at China's west borders. Therefore, the very reason for proactivity by Beijing is to protect the direct threat imposed on China's Xinjiang by the East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM) operating from Afghanistan. China's direction of security policy applies engaging the Taliban, supporting counter-terrorism efforts, and military assistance to the Afghan government. It also attempted to bring Afghanistan into a regional security framework, that is, toward the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), to make joint efforts against terrorism.

India's and China's security strategies in Afghanistan intertwine to create a complicated and frequently contradictory scenario. Both countries have a vested interest in countering terrorism and bringing stability, but their rivalry has an impact on the possibility of working together in this regard. Security institutions in Afghanistan have additional workloads caused by the daunting internal factors fighting against the immediate threats of extremist groups and insurgencies, competing influences have to juggle among themselves.

Thus, it is a complex mesh of economic, political, and security factors relating to the India-China conflict, which creates a tangled web for Afghanistan. Both countries pour in much of their resources and technical know-how for the welfare of Afghanistan; yet rivalry does much to belittle the above and, along with that, also worsens pre-existing conditions. Afghanistan's capacity to manage this will be crucial to its own future stability and prosperity. The next section explains how the answers to the research question further clarify this complex geopolitical interaction.

Answers to the Research Question

The research question, "How does the rivalry between India and China impact Afghanistan political existence, security environment, and economic development?" is being examined through its multifaceted impacts as discussed above. Integrating all this, we can find the hereunder answers:

Political Stability

The rivalry between India and China does have a strong effect on the political landscape of Afghanistan. India wants to democratize and develop democratic institutions and governance, while China wants to emphasize stability through pragmatic diplomacy. This means an opportunity for Afghanistan to gain external support to some extent, but increases the danger of it turning into a field of struggle between

contending political ideologies. The Political actors in Afghanistan are usually required to balance their relationship with both countries in such a way that he will be not disregarding one or the other, which makes coherent governance and long-term institutional stability difficult.

Security Environment

Afghan security environment is defined by India's counterterrorism audience and China's concern over extremism, especially regarding its Xinjiang province. It increases India's current involvement in Afghanistan's security as a part of counter-terrorism practices to bring internal stability to its hostile neighbour, which thus also provides a context of rivalry with Pakistan. On the other hand, the Chinese approach envisages engagement with the Taliban and encasing Afghanistan in bigger regional security architectures such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization designed to deal with the threats to its western frontiers. In the absence of coordinated efforts between India and China, however, overlapping strategies have emerged that fail to address the complex realities of Afghanistan's security environment comprehensively.

Economic Development

Here India's investments in infrastructure and China's undertaking in Afghanistan's resource extraction shape the nation's economy. An immediate benefit for communities across Afghanistan includes that of connectivity and HR development initiatives from India. On the other hand, China's Belt and Road Initiative brings long-term promise for regional integration. This competition, however, for fragmented development is availing projects with specific strategic goals but not with holistic Afghanistan needs. Afghanistan's foreign dependency is even by this rivalry, making its economy vulnerable to external pressures and changes in the geopolitical scenario.

Conclusion

The India-China conflict casts a long shadow over Afghanistan in that it affects the country profoundly across all aspects, including the political, economic, and security domains. While both countries contribute their resources, technical expertise, and other valuable inputs, Afghanistan suffers immensely due to the conflict of interests. It lies trapped among an array of contending preferences of external actors, such as India developing soft power and purporting developmental aid as well as projecting democratic values in contrast to China's strategic approaches toward economic realism and security-linked engagement. Though Afghanistan has many opportunities in one's being able to leverage external support, it makes the country much more exposed to the resulting geopolitical frictions. Furthermore, Afghanistan will have to operate these dynamics in order to craft a future for itself.

Thus, a foreign policy promoting sovereignty and development priorities complemented with measures for collaboration between India and China should be essential. Regional frameworks that promote cooperation instead of contentious rivalries may also create opportunities to mitigate adverse effects that stem from such rivalries and lay the foundation for a more stable and prosperous Afghanistan.

References

- Akhtar, R., & Sarkar, J. (2015). *Pakistan, India, and China after the US drawdown from Afghanistan*. Stimson Center.
- Akhter, M. N., & Yuan, L. (2020). China India in Afghanistan. *Journal of Social and Political Sciences*, 3(2). <https://doi.org/10.31014/aior.1991.03.02.182>
- Bose, S., & Panda, A. (2016). Indian and Chinese foreign policy imperatives and strategies vis-à-vis Afghanistan. *India Review*, 15(4), 379–406. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14736489.2016.1235939>
- Huasheng, Z. (2012). *China and Afghanistan: China's Interests, stances, and perspectives*. Center for Strategic & International Studies.
- Indurthy, R. (2016). India and China: conflict, competition, cooperation, and prospects for peace. *International Journal on World Peace*, 33(1), 43.
- Lunev, S. (2020). *The Problem of Terrorism and Approaches to Afghanistan in the Russia-India-China Triangle*. <https://www.sravpol.ru/jour/article/view/1131>
- Malone, D. M., & Mukherjee, R. (2010). India and China: conflict and cooperation. *Survival*, 52(1), 137–158. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00396331003612513>
- Markey, D. S. (2022). *Armed confrontation between China and India*. Council on Foreign Relations..
- Pandey, S. (2019). *Understanding China's Afghanistan policy: From calculated indifference to strategic engagement*. Observer Research Foundation.
- Rose, L. E. (1997). India, China, the Himalayan border states and Afghanistan: 1947–57. *South Asian Survey*, 4(1), 81–94. <https://doi.org/10.1177/097152319700400108>
- Segal, G. (1981). China and Afghanistan. *Asian Survey*, 21(11), 1158–1174. <https://doi.org/10.2307/2644000>
- Xuemei, Q. (2018). Comparing China's and India's Aid to Afghanistan. *China International Strategy Review* 2017.