

The Impact of the Belt and Road Initiative on the Development of Asian Countries During the Ten Years of Its Implementation

Hongyu Quan^{1,a,*}

¹*History, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, S1 4FA, UK*

a. Quanhongyujn22@163.com

**corresponding author*

Abstract: China launched the Belt and Road Initiative, which is now marking its tenth anniversary. The Initiative has significantly aided in fostering economic development in Asian, African, and even global economies during the past 10 years and has aided in strengthening international ties. This study mainly examines how the economics and society of developing Asian nations that took part in the Belt and Road project have changed over the past ten years and assesses the potential and difficulties the project will bring about in the future. In this paper, Pakistan is used as the research object, and data analysis and comparison analysis are done using case studies and literature analyses. The primary sources of secondary data for this paper's research are journal papers, research books, magazine articles, etc. This study concludes that the Belt and Road Initiative's execution is crucial to advancing the process of globalization and helpful to the social and economic development of Asia's developing nations.

Keywords: the Belt and Road Initiative, economic integration, globalization

1. Introduction

The Belt and Road Initiative has been in place for a full ten years now and has gotten positive feedback from numerous Asian nations, including India, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. The “New Silk Road Economic Belt” and the “21st Century Maritime Silk Road” are the two main components of the Belt and Road Initiative, both of which seek to advance economic and trade cooperation and promote shared development through the use of already-established mechanisms of cooperation between China and its neighbors [1]. Since the Belt and Road Initiative's implementation ten years ago, China has consistently improved its economic and cultural ties and cooperation with other Asian nations. It has also promoted trade, investment in infrastructure, cooperation in new industries, and cooperation in the management of educational institutions, all of which have had a significant positive impact on the development of other Asian nations. This article will go over how the Belt and Road Initiative's implementation has impacted the growth of Asian nations over the last 10 years and what new prospects it will bring about.

The research methods used in this paper—literature analysis and case analysis—make it possible to analyze subjects relevant to the Belt and Road Initiative as well as the development goals and

strategies of emerging Asian nations in this environment. This paper has a good reference value for researchers who study the implementation effects of the “One Belt, One Road” initiative.

2. Comparison of the Development of Asian Countries Before and after the Implementation of the Belt and Road Initiative

2.1. The Development Status of Asia Before the Policy Implemented

Firstly, the development of developing nations in Asia will first be examined in this paper before and after the Belt and Road Initiative’s adoption. The bulk of the nations in the Asian region are developing nations, and most of them have experienced colonial invasion and domination in contemporary times. The economy has grown and is moving forward strongly since independence, but the economic base is still insufficient. To accomplish the goal of common prosperity, Asia’s nations need to work closely together. Because developing countries and regions in Asia have large populations, wide market opportunities, and a strong foundation for cooperation, China’s idea and plan for the “Belt and Road” initiative is consistent with fostering regional cooperation among Asia and supporting the shared development of developing countries in Asia. Since gaining independence in the modern era, many Asian nations have steadily developed their own economic systems, yet poor risk mitigation strategies result from weak economic underpinnings. Since gaining independence in the modern era, several Asian nations have gradually developed their own economic systems; yet, because of the fragility of their economic underpinnings, these nations’ risk resistance mechanisms are inadequate. Consider how closely financial development is correlated with economic growth: it is relatively slow in South Asia, Southeast Asia, and other regions, and the share of the capital market is quite low when compared to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) [2].

The economic development of developing nations and regions in Asia is still far behind that of industrialised nations and regions like Europe and the United States. Using the European region as an example, Europe benefits from favourable geographic characteristics, high levels of intergovernmental collaboration, a concentrated distribution of innovative markets and industries, and solid internal cohesion. Excellent inland transport infrastructure exists throughout Europe, and logistics and travel expenses are minimal for cross-border trade. According to studies, the concentration and distribution of economic sectors favours economic growth, which is one of the reasons why European countries have a better level of economic development than their Asian counterparts [3]. Asia has a large number of regional cooperation organisations, but the level of collaboration there is low. Additionally, there are high cross-border tariffs within Asia, as well as high logistics and transportation expenses. Therefore, it is critical to encourage interregional cooperation in Asia, lower transportation costs, boost infrastructure investment and building, and foster economic growth.

2.2. The Development of the Asian Region after the Implementation

2.2.1. Related Measures

Following the introduction of “the Belt and Road” programme, developing Asian nations and regions have been actively supported by policies, which have greatly boosted their economy. Early on in the implementation of policy, China worked with its neighbours primarily through infrastructure investment while also promoting internal economic growth in Asia [4]. According to studies, spending on infrastructure construction is crucial for fostering economic growth. It is possible to significantly lower logistics and transportation costs, increase freight efficiency, and expand the European market by accelerating the construction of transportation infrastructure and opening China-

Europe trains. China has also founded the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the Silk Road Fund to offer long-term financial support, displaying its commitment to the “Belt and Road” plan and fostering the shared growth of Asian developing nations.

2.2.2. Case Analysis: China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)

Pakistan is one of the relatively representative nations among the numerous nations that have taken part in the “Belt and Road Initiative”. The following section of this article will focus on Pakistan as a particular example and analyse how the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), created in accordance with the “One Belt, One Road” philosophy, has aided Pakistan’s economic development.

Pakistan has a crucial strategic geographic location and serves as a vital conduit between Central Asia and Europe. The slow economic growth and poor infrastructure that Pakistan has experienced, however, have hampered the country’s internal social development. The initial US\$46 billion investment in CPEC has expanded to US\$62 billion, all of which is used for CPEC’s construction. Investment is mostly employed in Pakistan to build infrastructure, such as roads, railroads, industrial bases, etc., which has greatly enhanced Pakistan’s infrastructure development [5]. China has also invested in renewable energy projects in Pakistan, creating close to 9,000 employment locally, raising industrial output, and significantly advancing Pakistan’s economic and social growth. The distribution of jobs created by Belt and Road investments in renewable energy is shown in Figure 1, which demonstrates that in addition to a small number of jobs directly related to the energy sector, more jobs are distributed with upstream and downstream renewable energy projects and derivative industries, such as the development of mining, the oil industry, and other related industries [6]. In addition to accelerating Pakistan’s economic development, the CPEC’s construction has also benefited Pakistan’s neighbours, including Iran and India, which is helpful for advancing Asia’s overall economic development.

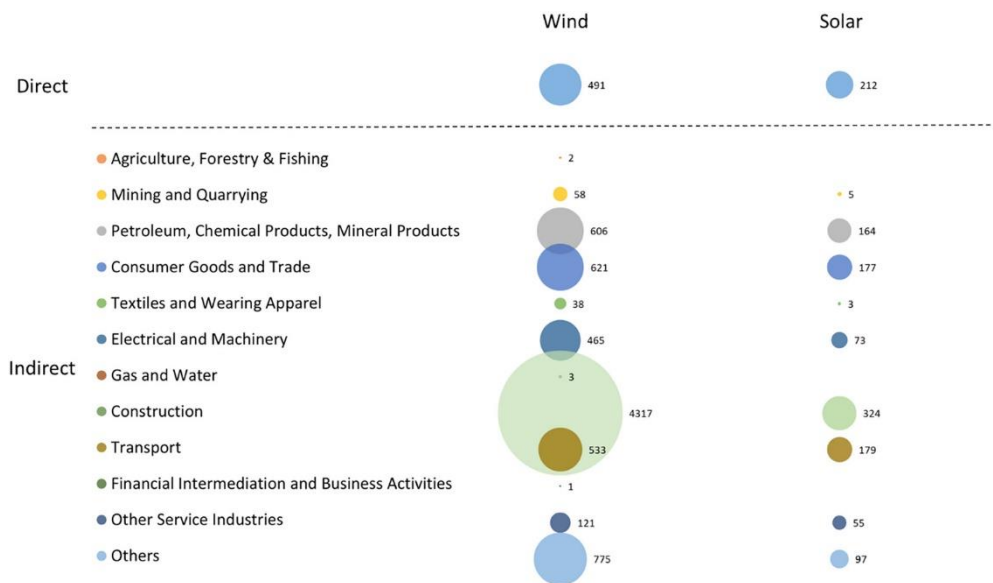


Figure 1: The distribution of the new job positions brought by renewable energy investment through BRI [6].

3. Impact of the Belt and Road Initiative on Asian Countries

There is no denying that the “Belt and Road” concept’s conception and implementation have significantly aided the economic and social development of China and other Asian nations. The following will explain the Belt and Road Initiative from the perspective of economic growth,

ecological governance in light of the recent epidemic of crown pneumonia, and what new prospects it will bring.

3.1. The Perspective of Economic Development

From the standpoint of economic development, infrastructure investment is one of the most significant driving forces to achieve quick and steady economic growth since, as was already noted, actively developing infrastructure is conducive to encouraging economic development. In addition to easing the labour shortage and easing the burden on employment, investing in infrastructure construction can also increase production efficiency. Second, the Belt and Road Initiative has encouraged numerous Chinese businesspeople to invest in and implement this proposal. When numerous Chinese businesspeople join the effort, they are able to provide long-term financial support, which helps to guarantee the project's consistency of implementation. At the same time, the Belt and Road Initiative has decreased transaction costs by reducing traffic times and constructing roads and trains, helping local governments and the populace, and raising the standard of living [7]. The "Belt and Road" initiative has boosted the development of border provinces on the Chinese mainland as well as the economies of neighbouring nations, creating a win-win situation on both a national and international scale.

3.2. Ecological Governance Perspective in the Context of the New Crown Pneumonia Epidemic

The COVID-19 outbreak has been a significant backdrop for global economic and social development since the end of 2019. Efforts have been undertaken by nations all over the world to curb the COVID-19 pandemic and revive their economies, and China's "One Belt, One Road" project has also been instrumental in these efforts. The "Health Silk Road" (HSG) is a concept under this effort that refers to developing medical teams and specialists to respond to public health emergencies by establishing a "Belt and Road" public health network. HSG has partnered with numerous nations and international organisations, including ASEAN, to exchange medical assistance as part of its commitment to establishing an equitable and effective global public health care system. After the global epidemic, HSG kept up its contributions and expanded [8]. Through this programme, China has helped many nations and areas, including Southeast Asia, with medical support and assistance, and it supports the establishment of the local public health system. HSGs also contribute to the monitoring of public health by providing more thorough data and precise surveillance systems and by gaining expertise in the mitigation and response to comparable public health incidents.

3.3. Opportunities and Challenges of the Belt and Road Initiative's 10th Anniversary

As the Belt and Road Initiative approaches its tenth anniversary of implementation, more opportunities and difficulties lie ahead. The Belt and Road Initiative respects the development background of the current globalisation period and adheres to the idea of open, inclusive, mutually beneficial, and win-win cooperation. In order to connect regional economies through assisting in the construction of other nations' infrastructure and fostering greater regional integration, this effort investigates yet another potential avenue for future global economic development [9]. But there is no doubt that the Belt and Road Initiative also brings many risks and challenges. For instance, environmental issues that arise as the project progresses may diminish the habitat area of woods and wild animals, easily resulting in irreparable harm to the surrounding ecological ecosystem [10]. In addition, it is challenging to obtain comparable economic returns in a timely manner because infrastructure construction needs a significant amount of money. However, it is more crucial to look at chances for development among the unavoidable obstacles. China will carry out this policy in full

force going forward, expand its cooperative relationships with its neighbours, and encourage regional economic growth that is sustainable.

4. Conclusion

This paper primarily examines the Belt and Road Initiative's effects on the economic growth of Asia's emerging nations, as well as potential opportunities and difficulties. In conclusion, the Belt and Road Initiative has been crucial to the social and economic progress of Asian nations. The infrastructure of the nations and areas taking part in the project has improved over the past ten years since it was developed and supported, which has increased jobs and raised locals' quality of living. The Belt and Road Initiative is steadfastly putting the idea of "human community" into practise, and is dedicated to increasing the level of economic, market, and investment integration in Asia. It also dedicates to constructing a system of regional economic cooperation that is equal and reciprocal, peaceful, and open. The Belt and Road Initiative's first ten years are now complete. The initiative still has a tonne of development potential and prospects in the context of globalisation. This initiative complies with the demands of the globalisation process at this moment. Without a doubt, it is favourable to fostering the growth of globalisation, despite the challenges. China will continue to support the "Belt and Road" initiative's execution, fully exploit its successes, improve its cooperative relationships with its neighbours, encourage regional economic integration, and continue to propel both regional and global economic growth. This essay did not employ primary data collection or quantitative analysis, nor did it thoroughly examine how Asian developing nations will go on to build their own society and economies as a result of this project. Future studies on the Belt and Road Initiative and Asian developing nations might concentrate on ways to further globalization and further the development of international cooperation.

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