

China-India Competition: An Appraisal

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Abstract

Both China and India are two ancient civilizations, great economic giants, military powers, and are the most populous countries globally, contributing considerably to the world's economy. In the pre-colonized South Asia era, both states had amicable relations that later were exacerbated in the post-colonization of South Asia. The prevailing rivalry of China and India, according to Chinese, statecrafts is the brainchild of the British Empire attributed to perpetuating its hegemony visa-e-vise China. The continuation of the British legacy to demoralize China, particularly in the 21st century, by all means, will not serve the Indian interests. Meanwhile, India can't be compared with China in the economy, military, politics, and diplomacy. China's robust economy has enabled her to expedite its economic, political, and military powers across the world. India, a next-door neighbor of China, is obsessed with countering the Chinese's influence and proving counterproductive for her. India, to counter China, has jumped on the U.S. bandwagon. As for the containment of China, the U.S. and Indian interests are concerned, witnesses a growing convergence.

Keywords: *Economy, Military modernization, Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) Population, GDP, Covid-19*

Introduction

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Both China and India are two economic giants and crucial international political players. Their skirmishes on the border in June 2020, in which 20 Indian soldiers were killed, caught the world's attention. Before that, both states also fought a war in 1962 on territorial issues growing tension over Tibet. In that brief war, India was humiliated ferociously. In the 1962 war, China made India accountable for interfering in its rule in Tibet, while India accused China of suppressing Tibetan autonomy. Tibet remains a bone of contention between them. C. Raja Mohan rightly explains that "When there is relative tranquility in Tibet, India, and China have reasonably good relations. When Sino-Tibetan tensions rise, India's relationship with China heads south."³

Consequently, India plays a "Tibet card" given asylum to Dalai Lama, a Tibetan spiritual leader, and Delhi is reluctant to throw him out, bringing China in a mounting pressure. Skirmishes on the border in June 2020, the 1962 war, and the presence of Dalai Lama in India deteriorate Sino-Indian relations; both states are unwilling to compromise on territorial issues, making them competitors in the emerging geopolitical landscape of the region. Regional and international issues hardly remain immune to Sino-Indian relations.⁴ However, a question remains: Can India be compared with China economically, militarily, and politically? The prevailing ground realities show that India can't compete with China. India, which arguably had the potential to be compared with China in 1960, can't be compared currently with mighty China. According to World Bank, both states had similar GDP in the 1960s "in 1962, China's GDP was 46.464 billion dollars while India's GDP was 41.741 billion dollars."⁵

Most considerably, both states in the 1960s had a similar population. "China's population, 665.77 million, ranked first globally, and India ranked second with 454.58 million. These values were far higher than those of the third-largest country, the United States, with 186.54 million."⁶ Intriguingly, both states' military size and weapons were somewhat equal in 1962, "Until October 15, 1962, India had one group army, one division, four brigades, and twenty-one battalions along the east part of the entire border with China. Twenty-two thousand military personnel were present. At this same time, eighteen thousand PLA military personnel from two divisions and four regiments were in position on the other side of the border."⁷ However, China's economic rise in the last 40 years paved the way for accelerating its geopolitical and geo-economical clouts across the world.

China's economy, before 1979, remained fragile, stagnant, inefficient, and centrally controlled isolated from the world moved from isolation and centrally controlled to opening up to foreign trade and investment and brought free-market reforms heralded its fastest world's growing economy that resultantly improved the gross domestic product with growth average of 9.5%. The

³Ivan Lidarev, History's Hostage: China, India and the War of 1962, The Diplomatic September 08, 2020

⁴Ibid.

⁵"World Bank", "GDP in 1962 by country"

[http://search.worldbank.org/data?qterm=GDP+1962&language=EN&format=.](http://search.worldbank.org/data?qterm=GDP+1962&language=EN&format=)

⁶"Population in 1962 by country"[http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/peo_pop-people-population&date=1962.](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/peo_pop-people-population&date=1962)

⁷Zhu Hua (The director of Institute of South Asia), The History of Sino-India Border Defense War, Military Science Press, December 1993, p. 137

world termed China's growth rate "the fastest sustained expansion by a major economy in history."⁸ The remarkable economic growth of China changed its base. Changing of base ultimately altered China's behavior politically, economically, militarily, and diplomatically. India cannot be matched with China at the current juncture and lags far behind economy, politics, military, and diplomacy. In the succeeding paragraphs, different crucial aspects will be discussed.

China's robust economy

China's economic growth and its economic successes in the last 40 years have been impressive. China made economic progress by its state economic policies, but social policies in economic development also played a substantial role. China's economic success cannot be merely confined to any signal economic institution's effectiveness. Social factors, making accurate decisions according to changing circumstances also contributed massively to the zenith of its economic achievements.⁹ The leadership of Deng Xiaoping in late 1978 gave a new outlook to China's economy by espousing an inclusive approach of opening door policy, introducing foreign capital and technology. It continued the norms of socialism in the country. Xiaoping intended to repair the damage caused to China's economy in Cultural Revolution by opening up the economy. To improve impoverished masses' per capita income, the government initiated special economic zones, allowed foreign investment, opened coastal cities, the delta open zones, technology development zones, and high-tech industry development zones. The establishment of the zones mentioned above embarked on economic prosperity, and a massive inflow of foreign investment expedited china's economic growth. China, meanwhile, maintained its socialist market economic concept. The overhauling of economic policies headed the country towards an entrepreneurial boom, created massive opportunities for venture businesses and entrepreneurs within China.¹⁰

Ostensibly, inflows of foreign capital, management know-how and technology, and vast labor resources played a catalyst role in China's rapid growth. An open-door economic policy in the 1980s witnessed high economic growth, and per capita income improved tremendously. The per capita income of China in 1990 remained \$770 and was believed to be 14 times higher than in 1980. Improving per capita income demonstrates Xiaoping's prime goal of strengthening China's economy.¹¹

Currently, the world in the history of humanity for the first time is more dependent on China in the realm of economy. As a result, countries are doing more trade with China and receiving more investment from Beijing. Countries such as Singapore, the Philippines, Malaysia, Vietnam, and South Korea are deeply connected to China in the global supply chain sphere. Pakistan and Egypt being emerging solely rely on China's investment. In his report, McKinsey argues that the increasing exposure of the rest of the world to China reflects China's increasing importance as a

⁸China's Economic Rise: History, Trends, Challenges, and Implications for the United States, <https://www.everycrsreport.com/reports/RL33534.html> September 15, 2020

⁹Performance Legitimacy, State Autonomy and China's Economic Miracle, *Journal of Contemporary China*

¹⁰The "Three Reforms" in China: Progress and Outlook, Japan Research Institute

¹¹ Ibid.

market, supplier, and provider of capital."¹² A recent strategic forum meeting of quadrilateral Security Dialogue or Quad was held in Tokyo on October 06, 2020. Countries that participated in the meeting were the U.S., Japan, India, and Australia. The meeting aimed to discuss the general Asia-Pacific regional security issues and alluded to countering China. Considering the above four countries, they are more economically dependent on China, and China has lesser economic dependence. To bear in mind, the U.S., Japan, India, and Australia annual bilateral trades with China are \$636 billion, \$317 billion, \$85 billion, and \$252 billion, respectively.¹³ China is also committed to redrawing the global trade route by initiating Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). BRI is believed to be the first mega project in history to be accepted by 138 countries in which China is expected to be investing four trillion dollars accordingly.¹⁴

Covid-19, a pandemic that initially originated at the end of 2019 in Wuhan, China, was forecasted to damage China's economy badly. Through its technological advancement and its artificial intelligence (A.I.), China recovered spectacularly from the pandemic. Unlike India, China is the only economy to eschew economic recession this year as the pandemic crippled the business on account of strict lockdown. According to the World Bank, the world as a whole economy is prognosticated to be contracting 5.2%, while China's economy this year is expected to be expedited by 1.6%. The modus operandi of China in the containment of contagion was quite distinctive. Its relatively rapid recovery consisted of strict lockdown and population tracking policies that reduced the virus.¹⁵

Indian Economic Recession

There is no comparison of the Chinese economy vis-à-vis to the Indian one. Indian economy during Covid-19 has been continuously confronted with a rapid economic recession with a contracting rate of -23.9% till June is becoming the fastest contracting economy in the world. An intensifying contracting rate of the economy puts India in the most profound economic recession. The country, since independence, never faced such a dilemma. At Global Institutes, McKinsey forecasts that India should generate by 2030 nearly 90 million non-farm jobs to accommodate the younger generation. He maintains that creating 90 million jobs by 2030 with a prevailing -23.9% contracting rate makes it simply impossible. He further asserts that India needs to enhance its economic growth rate to 8 % to create 90 million jobs currently appears to be an uphill task with a deteriorating economic growth rate of 3.1% amid covid-19.¹⁶

Indian tourist sector contributes enormously to its economy has now been under deep stagnation amid Covid-19. Industry Chamber CII maintains that "The coronavirus pandemic has given a

¹²Yen Nee Lee, McKinsey research finds the world becoming more exposed to China — but not the reverse, CNBC | September 20, 2020

¹³Dost Muhammad Barrech, Quad meeting: In context of theory of complex interdependence, Pakistan Observer, October 1, 2020

¹⁴China to spend four trillion dollars on BRI, <https://dnanews.com.pk/china-spend-four-trillion-dollars-bri/> October 03, 2020

¹⁵Laura He, CNN Business, China is winning the global economic recovery, October 15, 2020

¹⁶India's economic woes may have only just begun, BBC News October 03, 2020

crippling blow to the Indian travel and tourism industry...The entire value chain linked to Travel & Tourism is likely to lose around \$65.57 billion, with the organized sector alone likely to lose \$25 billion,"¹⁷ Indian strict lockdown during the Covid-19 affected the daily wagers badly, particularly those who have been working in hotels and restaurants. India's National Restaurant Association estimates that 40% of the country's restaurants struggle to survive the pandemic. As a result, Indian trade and hotels encounter contraction rates at 47% resulting in surging unemployment. Indian economy in the pandemic, most alarmingly, has been predicted to be falling behind other South Asian countries such as Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka.

Economic implications for the country have been increasing by leaps and bounds as the country is viewed as the hotspot of the virus with 5 million infections.¹⁸ Its economy is at a low ebb. The GDP rate has been continuously shrinking. In March 2018, the Indian GDP growth rate remained 8.2% in August 2020 has sharply declined to 3.1%. In the country's economy, consumption demand plays a pivotal role in strengthening the economy. In 2019-20 Private Final Consumption Expenditure (PFCE) contributed nearly 57 % to India's GDP, PFCE growth in March 2020 collapsed to nearly 2.7% quarter conceived to be the lowest since June 2012. Negative implications of the economy under exacerbating investment have long-lasting impacts on its economy.¹⁹

Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) hosts the Indian Premier League (IPL) every year in India and is the biggest revenue earner for BCCI. Foreigner players playing in IPL are now reluctant to play in India due to surging cases of Covid-19. Consequently, IPL matches are currently being played in UAE. Shifting of IPL cricket matches from India to the UAE shows Modi's regime's utter failure and has also been causing damage of Rs. Four thousand crores to the Indian economy.²⁰

To compare India with China in terms of GDP, India appears behind in the GDP race. India has a \$2.9 trillion economy, while China has a \$14 trillion economy. Most considerably, China is the second-largest trading partner of India after the U.S. having annual trade of approximately \$85 billion. India cannot underestimate the growing Chinese ascendancy in its economy. In this regard, Nataraj of the Indian Institute of Public Administration argues that "many industries in India — including electronics, pharmaceuticals and I.T. hardware — are heavily dependent on imports, particularly from China."²¹

Population

China's Population

Travel and tourism sector likely to lose Rs 5 lakh crore due to covid-19 crisis: Report, The Economic Times, October 05, 2020

¹⁸Sohail Ahmad, Indian economy heading for double-digit plunge due to COVID and is set to fall behind Pakistan and rest of S Asia, the Newser October 04, 2020

¹⁹Roshan Kishore, India's economy was facing worst-ever deceleration before Covid-19 hit, Hindustan Times, New Delhi, October 08, 2020

²⁰Dost Muhammad Barrech, "India Heads Towards Economic Recession Amid Covid-19" ISSI, October 19, 2020

²¹Dost Muhammad Barrech, India can't irritate China, NeoSpectacle, October 15, 2020

China has the world's largest population of 1.4 billion, considered a more productive population than India, contributing overwhelmingly to its economic growth. Per capita income, in reality, is conceived to be a more authentic metric in the measurement of a country's prosperity than GDP itself. Interestingly, China's per capita income in 2000 remained merely 1,000 USD has achieved a monumental milestone of reaching (10,276 U.S. dollars) in the last two decades. Improvement of per capita income, by and large, is reinforcing purchasing power that invariably contributes significantly to consumption and consumption, as a result, guarantees the strengthening of the economy. In the last 20 years, China's GDP per capita has risen exponentially. However, the World Bank maintains that China remains a middle-income country because its national income per capita is between 1,006-12,235\$.²²

China's success story of poverty reduction has bewildered the international community. Once perceived in the prism of extreme poverty, a country managed brilliantly to become a world leader in poverty alleviation. Its remarkable success in poverty reduction won admiration from both World Bank and the United Nations. Both admired China's monumental achievement by saying that China's poverty alleviation is "one of the greatest stories in human history."²³ China's successive leadership since 1978 espoused the trajectory of people-oriented policies that played a crucial role in uplifting healthcare, education, potable water, infant mortality, sanitation facilities, electricity, and housing safe housing conditions. The report of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) of China sheds light on China's miracle of reducing poverty, says that "the number of impoverished people dropped from 770 million to 16.6 million, and the poverty rate dropped from 97.5 percent to 1.7 percent from 1978 to 2018".²⁴ Chinese leaderships are obsessed with poverty alleviation have pledged that the country under the 13th Five-Year Plan by 2020 will lift all impoverished rural communities out of poverty. In recent years, China gives a great deal of importance to three agro-related issues such as rural areas, agriculture, and farmers proving poverty alleviation.²⁵

India's population

After China is a second-most populous country, India has a 1.2 billion population. Unlike China, India has an unproductive population where the world's 33 percent poor and destitute inhabit.²⁶ Indian per capita income cannot be matched with that of China. It was per capita income in March 2020 reached 2,139.222\$. Currently, Covid-19 has been causing havoc to the Indian per capita income that is likely to be declining to 5.4 percent in Financial Year 2021.

²²China's GDP per capita just passed \$10,000, but what does this mean?China Global Television Network, October 16, 2020

²³China's success in poverty alleviation: Lessons for other countries, China Global Television Network, October 17, 2020

²⁴Ibid.

²⁵Ibid.

²⁶David Lalmalsawma, Thirty-three percent of world's poorest live in India <http://blogs.reuters.com/india/2013/04/18/thirty-three-percent-of-worlds-poorest-live-in-india/> October 17, 2020

Meanwhile, the Indian middle-income share remained stagnant and unchanged. International Monetary Fund data unveils that China is the second-largest economy producing 16 percent of the world's all goods and services. However, Indian contribution to the world in all goods and services is a mere 4%. India's low production clarifies its sluggish economy, unskilled labor, and lack of science and technology.²⁷

China made more headways than India in enhancing the middle income of the masses. It has the edge over India due to its earlier economic reforms in the late 1970s. India, at the same time, started its reforms in 1991. China's economic reforms are deeper and more pragmatic than that of India, proving well to consolidate its trade and investment outcomes.²⁸

Military

China's Military Modernization

A Century ago, China remained a fragile and weak state humiliated by Japan and Western colonial powers. These defeats played a catalyst role in China's military modernization. As a result, China has been continuously modernizing its military to preempt external threats. An era of globalization proved instrumental for China's economic growth that buttressed its military power. In globalization, China's military modernization made progress in four attempts to preserve its national interest. Its growing military power ostensibly brought the western powers, including India, into consternation. However, China views that its military modernization is primarily attributed to self-defense and nullifying territorial disputes with neighboring countries and separatist movements. In the foreseeable future, China's military modernization counters Taiwan's independent movement. The country also has 56 ethnic groups. These ethnic groups are likely to be exploited by external forces to go for independent movements in the future. Presumably, China's obsession with military modernization will increase by leaps and bounds in the future.²⁹

The bona fide objective of the People's Republic of China's (PRC's) strategy is to achieve "the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation" by 2049. PRC has categorically stated that China's military objective was based on active defense to follow active defense safeguarding its security, sovereignty, and interests. Chinese leaders are looking forward to military transformation set in 2020 and 2035 by making its military a world-class military power globally.³⁰

China's military budget has been increasing exponentially. People's Liberation Army (PLA) is conceived as one of the dominating forces militarily across the world, making headways in spheres of sophisticated anti-ship ballistic missiles artificial intelligence (A.I.). International experts on the

²⁷China's middle class surges, while India's lags behind, Pew Research Centre, October 17, 2020

²⁸ ibid

²⁹Xiaoli Jiang and Yihong Gong , The Global Studies Journal, Globalisation and China's Military Modernisation:Fear not China, October 18, 2020

³⁰ Military and Security Developments Involving the People's Republic of China, Annual Report of Congress, October, 19, 2020

security domain view that Chinese military modernization is attributed to enhancing its military clout in Asia Pacific, countering threats emanating from Taiwan, and preserving its interest in disputed islands in the East and South China Seas. When President Xi Jinping came into power in 2012, he became preoccupied with restoring China's great-power status looked forward to producing a "world-class force" [PDF] that could dominate Asia- pacific and be able to humiliate the enemy by 2049.³¹

Xi prioritized structural reforms in the army, bringing deep personnel cuts, joint theater commands, and improved military-civilian collaboration. He is committed to transforming PLA from a territorial force into a robust maritime power to thwart any rival state aggression. China's naval power is believed to be the largest naval force in the world in terms of ship numbers surpassing the U.S. China, in 2016, had commissioned eighteen ships. At the same time, the U.S. Navy had only commissioned five. According to RAND Corporation, the PLA's ship quality has witnessed a considerable improvement, and its 70 percent fleets [PDF] were more advanced in 2017 than that of less than 50 percent in 2010.³²

Commentators perceive that China's growing 250,000 active naval service members make it a dominant force in sea power. It has also been steadily making progress in submarines and aircraft carriers. The country's air force in 2018 reached 395,000 active service members obtained advanced equipment, airborne warning bombers, control system, and unmanned aerial vehicles. China's air force has stealth aircraft, including J-20 fighters. RAND Corporation in 2105 maintained that China had sophisticated fighters and fighter-bombers.³³

The Center for a New American Security, in its June 2020 report, says that China's military power poses a grave threat to U.S. supremacy, surpassing the U.S. in technological advancement due to its economic progress and military advancement. The report further unveils that China is keenly observing how to counter the U.S. battlefield system and has been building long-range weapons, overtaking the U.S. in Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) domain. Robert O. Work, former U.S. Deputy Secretary of Defense, warns U.S. policymakers that "China is on the way to developing secretive weapons directed energy weapons, advanced space weapons, electromagnetic rail guns, high-powered microwave weapons or even more exotic arms." ³⁴

In its reports, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) discloses that the world's total military expenditure in 2018 reached \$1822 billion. According to the report, in 2018, the biggest spenders were the US, China, Saudi Arabia, India, and France. After the U.S., China is the second-largest spender in the world since 2018, has enhanced military expenditure by 5.0 percent to \$250 billion.³⁵ Above all, China, on account of its robust economy, has consecutively accelerated

³¹Lindsay Maizland, China's Modernizing Military, Real Clear Defense, October 19, 2020

³² Ibid.

³³ Ibid

³⁴ Dost Muhammad Barrech, "Great Power Competition in the Post-COVID-19 Era", Modern Diplomacy, October 19, 2020

³⁵World military expenditure grows to \$1.8 trillion in 2018, STOCKHOLM INTERNATIONAL PEACE RESEARCH INSTITUTE, October, 20, 2020

its military expenditure in the last 24 years. Ian, in this regards, says that 'Growth in Chinese military spending tracks the country's overall economic growth,'³⁶

Indian Military

Unlike China since its inception, India paid less attention to its military. First Indian Prime Minister Nehru, though envisioned making India a great power without consulting the armed forces of the country, said that "the right approach to defense is to avoid having unfriendly relations with other countries – to put it differently, war today is, and ought to be, out of the question."³⁷ In the era of Nehru, the policy of war was unformulated in Indian foreign policy, nor did the military remain as the central instrument of its foreign policy, and statecrafts of the country also overlooked defense. Policymakers were utterly incognizant of defense issues that resulted in India's humiliating defeat in the 1962 war. The 1962 war with China jolted India's policymakers and realized them to ponder over new defense policies to thwart Chinese aggression in the future. After the defeat of the 1962 war, Nehru endorsed that "military weakness has been a temptation, and a little military strength may be a deterrent."³⁸

Indian politicians, since the country's independence, were wary of the army's role in politics; two renowned leaders, the Indian nationalist movement, Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru, further downgraded the army's role as both were relentless pursuers of non-violence. Gandhi's non-violence philosophy left little space for the Indian army to manipulate power that proved in its enfeeblement in military power. Nehru's reluctance to construct strategic planning architecture single-handedly formulated Indian foreign policy during his tenure left faultiness in the Indian military.³⁹

Indian policymakers do not contemplate to espouse the footstep of Nehru anymore, they by keeping the prevailing geopolitical environment of national and international politics, desire to maximize Indian military power. India, ostensibly, cannot be compared with China in the military domain as China's economy has been increasing rapidly, heralding its military consolidation path. As per the report by (SIPRI), India's defense budget in 2018 remained \$71.1 billion while China's military expenditure of \$261 billion is more than three times bigger than that of India.⁴⁰ India's current stockpile stands 150 nuclear warheads while China outstripped in the stockpile domain and has more than doubled at 320 warheads. China has more active 2, 183,000 personnel than Indian 1,440,000 personnel.

Meanwhile, India has 235 self-propelled artillery and 266 rocket projectors. On the other hand, China has 3,800 self-propelled artillery and 2,650 rocket projectors. However, India has 2,123 total

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷Quoted in P.V.R. Rao, *India's Defence Policy and Organisation Since Independence* (New Delhi: The United Services Institution of India, 1977), pp. 5–6.

³⁸Lorne J. Kavic, *India's Quest for Security: Defence Policies, 1947–1965* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1967), p. 192.

³⁹Jaswant Singh, *Defending India* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1999), pp. 1–58

⁴⁰ROUNAK JAIN, *India vs China defense budget and equipment comparison*, Business insider, October 18, 2020

aircrafts while China has 3,210 aircraft. India has a fleet strength of 285 consisting of 16 submarines, ten destroyers, 13 frigates, corvettes, 3 and 139 coastal patrol ships. At the same time, China has a fleet strength of 777, including 74 submarines, 52 frigates, 50 corvettes, 36 destroyers, and 220 coastal patrol ships. The figures mentioned above clearly show China's supremacy vis-à-vis India in the military sphere.⁴¹

Main Findings

- Both states ought to formulate their foreign policies in the context of the theory of complex interdependence, focusing on economic interdependence, mitigating anarchy that ultimately will usher the path of a conducive environment for friendship.
- China, the next-door neighbor of India after the U.S., is the second-largest trading partner of India. Thus, India has to de-escalate tensions with China to gain maximum economic advantages from China.
- India needs to bring home an adage of Henry Kissinger, who rightly says that "to be an enemy of America can be dangerous, but to be a friend is fatal." The U.S. support to India to contain China will serve the U.S. more than that of India. India appears to be made a scapegoat in the U.S.'s excellent power competition with China.
- China needs to reduce its trade deficit with India to win the confidence of Indian policymakers, making them realized not to be exploited by the U.S.
- The 21st century belongs to Asia. Mending better ties between China and India, by and large, will eliminate the arrogance and pride of the West forever.
- Historically, China and India had cozy relations; their relations were exacerbated after India's colonization by Great British. Past relations can easily be mended by keeping the future in consideration.
- The current world is a globalized world, where states' interests are deeply entangled; separating one aspect of interest can halt others' progress. Thus, India should not keep all eggs in the basket of the U.S. should formulate better ties with rising power China.
- During the pandemic, China remained inclusive and supportive and assisted more than 120 countries, including India, by providing medical equipment. At the same time, India was threatened by the U.S. to support her. Indian economy, on account of covid-19, is in deep recession since its independence was never confronted with such a dilemma. China could be more instrumental than the U.S. to strengthen the Indian economy.
- Presumably, an established power, the U.S., will be replaced by rising China. In great power competition, the U.S. deliberately embroils India. Thus, India should, instead of relying on the U.S., strengthen its internal strengths. The lesser its reliance on the U.S., the more there will be the likelihood of good ties with China.

⁴¹ Ibid.

- Indian alliance with the U.S. to counter China will also wash away its past gains of the Non-Aligned Movement.
- Better ties of China and India obviously will have positive implications on Indo-Pak relations as both consider each other as permanent enemies.
- Last but not least, both China and India will soon have to realize that "a close neighbor is better than a distant relative."

Conclusion

Undoubtedly, China and India are two economic giants, great civilizations, and close neighbors; both states, before India's British colonization, had cordial relations that were later deteriorated by the British to perpetuate its hegemony in the region. However, the current mighty China cannot be seen in 20th century China's prism. Its economic progress in the 21st century has altered world politics's complexion, and presumably, in the next few decades, she will replace an established power. Currently, the U.S. China can be compared with the U.S. and is being perceived by international experts as a rising power. To compare India with rising power, China would undoubtedly be a naïve approach; India cannot match China due to its economic, military, political powers. India seems behind economically, militarily, politically, and diplomatically in a competitive race with China. At the current juncture, India is a strategic ally of the U.S. in China's containment. The 21st century, unlike, 20th century is not a century of alliances; it is the century of globalization, win-win cooperation, and regional connectivity. India needs to bring home the requirements of the 21st century in its national interests; in excellent power competition, she will merely be made a scapegoat.