

Pakistan Federation and Baloch Nationalism: A Prospect of Economic Development and Political Challenges

Muhammad Imran^{[a],*}; Muhammad Akram-ul-Haq^[a].

^[a]International Relations and Political Science, University of Sargodha, Sargodha, Pakistan.

*Corresponding author.

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Abstract

It is an old problem with deep wounds both in Islamabad and among the Baloch people that Baloch sub-nationalism intimidating to slash the nation separately, they like to pursue two main viewpoints while explanations of this problem vary. On the other hand, the blame for the difficulty between the Federal government of Pakistan and the Baloch people deceit in the policies and strategies adopted by the government of Pakistan. As well as, censure on lack of Baloch assimilation for the capabilities and culture of the Baloch people. The main centered hierarchical, society and potentials augmented by the internationally stress has pushed them away from integration with the centre. This paper evaluates both sides to determine that awareness more specifically reflect the authenticity innate in the Baloch-Islamabad dilemma. It exposed other elements of every verdict significantly contribute the dilemmas. In addition, the system of Sardari as explained by Pro-Islamabad viewpoint, presents tremendous obstacles for integration. The geo-strategic importance of Baluchistan, the Great Game in the region and the interests of regional and world big powers in Baluchistan would be explored. After discussing the theoretical framework and issues between the central government and the Baloch people, the operative factors that led to trust deficit between the both parties have been explored and comparative analyses have been offered.

Key words: Baluchistan; Pakistan; Federalism; Gwadar

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INTRODUCTION

Baluchistan is the biggest province of the Pakistan with land of immense infertile wasteland, flourishing valleys, arrogant mountains. It has widespread borders of 832 kilometers (km) with Iran and 1,160 km with Afghanistan, while it has 560 km of shore imposing the Arabian Sea. It is bordered on the west and northwest by Iran and Afghanistan, in the north by the provinces of Punjab and KPK, in the east by the province of Sind and in the south by the Arabian Sea. It protects the Gulf and is the western-most part of South Asia. Consequently, it has the potential to become a centre of worldwide trade (Anwar, 2011). Though, the record of the province after the freedom is noticeable by an unstable situation and tip of interests for the nationalists, politicians and the central command comparable. Therefore, its geographical position compose it a strategic area of most important. Coast of Baluchistan as well deceits conflicts with the Strait of Hormuz which is another significant way for the supplies of international oil. The concerns imitates through the nationalist fundamentals such as exploitation of potentials of the province by the non-Baloch, demographic changes in the province in the name of development, unemployment, the sense of deficit, claim for sovereignty and the concern of gas monarchs have subjugated the political background. The record of Baluchistan has marked the unwillingness by the Khan of Kalat to affiliate with Pakistan, insurgencies in 1973 and 1958 by the topical low intensity uprising in different

elements of the province. Presently, the system of Sardari (Tribal System) is the main element of Baluchistan in all-purpose and particularly in the areas of Baloch. Most of all these elements, the mainly dominant one remains the abuse of human assets by ancient, Sardari System which is the contradiction in prosperity and progress in the region and also an indication of the bad governance in the social order. The participation of the regional powers with their vested concerns has as well as been fueling the political view. The Sardars in the region have the benefit of boundless authority, power and sustain dominance above the heaps without panic of the least challenge (Tucker, 1979).

In Baluchistan disorder has been another complex because of existing circumstances in the neighbor of Afghanistan and Pakistan's government determination against the Taliban and al-Qaeda loose ends in the province of KPK and adjacent tribal areas. The expansion of jumbo ventures and intense attention of China in these mega projects as well as concerned regionally, internationally and worldwide to maintain their own benefits and as well as to abuse the circumstances to their own interests. For carrying the supposed left-out province of Baluchistan in line with the developmental route of the rest of the country, the necessitate is thus felt to release the people and the politics of province by the rule of feudal, "Sardars," and concern different contemporary apparatus and economic growth in the province. These states have strategic economic and energy interests engaged in Baluchistan like ports, roads and pipelines. In fact, as one political analyst describes, if it was not has the strategic position of Baluchistan and as well uranium, rich oil potential and other energy resources, it is not easy to someone combating over this drab, isolated and threatening land. Illiteracy, Social conflict and economic under-development put in to this ongoing insurgency. Moreover, the pressure from Iran, China, India, Central Asia and Afghanistan make difficult alternatives for Pakistan (Baloch, 1983).

Today, a big challenge facing Pakistan is the opportunity to open the province for worldwide investment conversion and trade and its strategic resources in Baluchistan. The problem is that as far from the center, the Baloch Sardars used different tactics to derail the development process in the province. Despite the fact that it is rich in term of socio-economic development as compared to other provinces. They use nationalist groups to manipulate their ulterior dreams.

The purpose of this research is to test the following question:

- Is Federalism is used as a means of handling ethnic conflicts?
- Does Federalism aggravate the ethnic conflicts?
- How have the policies of Islamabad with respect to the Baloch succeeded or failed?
- Is the central government's implementation of policies brought integration closer to reality?

- How have the ground realities and conditions of the state of Pakistan affected Baloch issue?
- Are these traditional cultural norms and outdated administrative system of the Baloch played a vital role in promoting sub-nationalism in the province?
- What is the geo-strategic importance of Baluchistan, the Great Game in the region and the interests of regional and world big powers in Baluchistan?
- What is the economic importance of Gawadar Port?

1. FEDERALISM: CONCEPTS AND THEORIES

Every federation is a product of exceptional historical and political state of affairs. Therefore, it is impracticable to propose some worldwide set of aspect that clarifies why countries turn out to be federal. It is, however, feasible to regard as some of the dynamics that show the way to the development of federations from social, economic and political perspectives. If one points out the political features, there are different elucidations. By and large, federations came into being in two ways, either through the integration of independent states or the decentralization of power to sub-national units. In the first form, a federation is an upshot of a constitutional accord between two or more independent political bodies. In comparison, federal reorganization or motorized federalism directs to devolutionary practices that guide to the federalism of a once unitary political structure (Afzal, 2001). At present, significance in handling of federalism as a way of balancing centripetal and centrifugal forces pointed out to the question of which kind of federalism is pleasant with those countries affected by ethnic conflicts. As a result, learners of federalism systematize federations constructed on their gratitude of ethnic and linguistic diversities. In this veneration, it is probable to split federations generally into two types. In the first sort, there are those federations that safeguard territorial power distribution and do not identify ethnic and linguistic issues. Usually, they are dubbed, national or mono-national federations. Most of these federations arose from the coming together of their units, which previously existed autonomously. Their main determination was 'to unite people residing in dissimilar political units, who, however, shared a common language and culture (Ahmed, 2013). In the case of Pakistan a special case study to Baluchistan, primordial's greatly predisposed both accepted observations of ethnic identity and political conversations. In this regard, all the rage conceptions particularly play a key role in promoting ethnic identity and primordial elements. Similarly, political discussions of national self-determination have utilized primordial elements. Numerous ethno-nationalist writers stress primordial essentials of ethnicity in order to fuse the internal cohesiveness of their groups.

2. FEDERALISM AND MANAGEMENT OF ETHNIC CONFLICTS

Those who support that federalism as a means of handling ethnic conflicts present many explanations. John Agnew, for instance, argues that federalism facilitates to administer intergroup clashes that might otherwise shoot up into violence. Likewise, David Lake and Donald Rothchild emphasized that federalism can present a role in handling political conflicts. By facilitating local and regional establishment to exercise a degree of self-directed power, elites at the political centre can prop up self-confidence among local leaders. According to Vincent Ostrom, no other political structure present better chances for multi-ethnic countries in the modern-day world than federalism.

In Canada, the significance of a federation is that it provided an instrument to government which enabled the French while retaining their distinct national life to become happy partners with the British and attain a Canadian super nationality embracing a loyalty extending beyond their own group to that of the dominion as a whole. To begin with, Canada consisted of only four provinces – Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. The pre-confederation province of Canada became the provinces of Ontario and Quebec. Canada moved fast towards self-government. The period between 1914 to date is marked by constitutional advances which revolutionized the relationship of Canada to the British Empire. Canada today is an autonomous community within the Commonwealth Nations. The population of Canada is heterogeneous in race, religion and language. Fifty-two percent belong to the diverse European nationalities and three percent are of Negro and native Indian stocks. In spite of these social diversities, national feeling is included in an average Canadian.

Federalism's input to the safeguarding and development of minority cultures norms could also participate in the appeasement of inter-ethnic relationships. For example, India's restructuring of its federal setup stood on territorial linguistic and cultural identification which was well thought-out an important decision that assisted to save India from breaking down. In Pakistan as well, the acknowledgment of cultural and linguistic autonomy could have a constructive input in preparing the way for the construction of a new democratic basis for the state as a multi-ethnic state (Bakht, 2008). Federalism could also be utilized to lessen ethnic apprehensions and conflicts by proliferating the tips of power so as to get the heat off of a single central point by cheering inter-ethnic electoral collaboration. Federalism also promotes coalitions, footed on interests other than ethnicity and tumbling economic and social discrepancies between groups. It also gives support to reduce inter-ethnic conflicts, predominantly those designed to scheming

the political centre of given that political and economic capital for rival ethnic elites at local and regional ranks. This could facilitate to make over brutal conflicts that opposing ethnic groups take on in their proposition to manage the political centre to intra-regional non-violent conflicts within limited and local management.

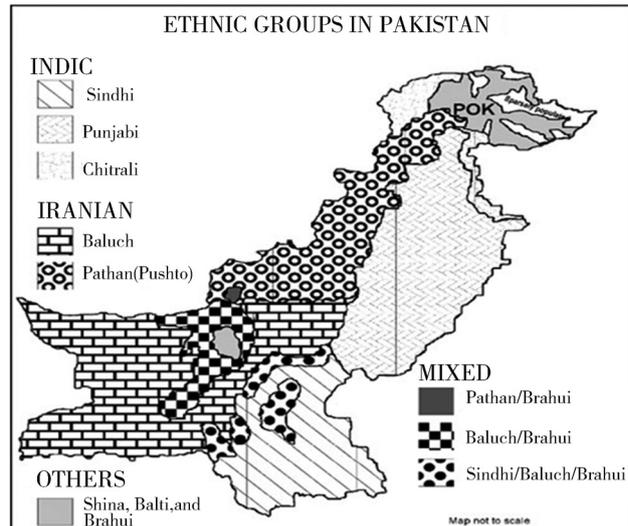


Figure 1
Source Google Earth

3. FEDERALISM AS A CAUSE OF MORE ETHNIC CONFLICTS

In contrary, a number of scholars claim that federalism aggravate the ethnic conflicts. There is a perception that make use of federalism in handling ethnic conflicts may drive the multi-ethnic federations towards disintegration. The Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia and the ex-USSR which disintegrated after the end of the Cold War, demonstrated susceptibility of multi-ethnic federations to clash and ultimately breakup. Yet a number of the existing multi-ethnic federations like Belgium in Europe, India and Pakistan in South Asia come into sight in a state of long-lasting crises (Masood, 2006). There are more than a few points of view against the exercise of federalism as a tool of handling ethnic conflict. One of the foremost problems directs to the impracticality of building harmonious limitations between ethnic and administrative setup. This has a propensity to stimulate tensions and conflicts between local and provincial majorities and minorities. That is recommended that federalism can add to inter-ethnic accord and courteousness only when the ethnic factions are territorially determined in their manifesto. Walker Connor depicted that pragmatic objective to the pursuit of ethno-nationalism at the worldwide level like the absolute size of ethnic groups and the predicament of setting up boundaries materialized in this universe when many multi-ethnic countries like Pakistan went through federal reformation course of action.

Pakistan is a federal country that has the same compositional ingredients which are considered hallmark of any typical federation. Like all other major federations of the world, Pakistani federal units are under one flag with the differences of ethnic, linguistic, social, cultural and economic interests. Baluchistan is the province that has highlighted these differences more than any other unit of Pakistan. The reasons are multiple but the forming elements of this province have several factors behind this echo which made the Baluchistan issue prominent both at national and international paradigms. Being a province with low population and a large geographical area, rich with minerals and other natural resources, Baluchistan could not get so much importance in the eyes of the federal stake-holders at Islamabad due to its specific tribal setup and a Sardari system (Tribal System) of resolving all kinds of grudges and disputes within their own limitations. But for the last two decades this issue has been highlighted and propagated as an issue created and widened by the so-called Baloch nationalists.

4. ETHNIC DIVISION OF BALOCH, PASHTUN TRIBES AND DEVELOPMENT OF FEDERALISM IN PAKISTAN

The Baloch and Pashtun are not merely the names of two tribal divisions; in fact, these are the two centers of power who have their own racial claims. These two tribes have been involved in an everlasting conflict to gain political and economical supremacy in their jointly shared areas of Baluchistan. This conflict did not remain limited to the traditions and customs of both tribes rather it was also converted in man-to-man and tribe-to-tribe battles in various parts of the history. The Pashtun have consistently been complaining about their status in Baluchistan for, in their words, they have always been treated as lower class citizens in the Baloch territory (Ahmad, 1989).

The north-western region comprising mainly of Quetta-Pishin, Zhob, and a major part of Loralai and Harnai sub-Divisions of Sibi District, covering on an area of 23,000 square miles out of the total 134,000 square miles of Baluchistan province of Pakistan. This region is mostly mountainous and has a severe cold climate, with a heavy snowfall in winters. The famous Suleman Mountain with its peak known as Takht-i-Suleman is situated in this part. The range passes through the northern part of Marri tribal area towards Punjab to join the main Himalayan range. As such, there are ample greeneries and forests in this part of Baluchistan.

Similarly, the two communities are working together in different areas especially in regional rationing of public goods, services, transportation, employment, and resource distributions. In a number of

cases this is marked in unstated but unyielding devotion to parity between the two groups of people. In some cases principles of parity and equity in allocations of funds is prevailed, whereas on the other hand resources are distributed on the principle of proportionality to population. The settling of ration (share or quota) is often acquired as an embedded point of departure, and is sometimes subject to conciliation, and occasionally open contests and competitions. Moreover, in numerous cases there are an initiative that there is something to bargain and it is expensive for both parties to move forward matters to utmost dangerous situations. The critical problem in politics is the execution and handling of conflict. The aptitude of federalism and other tools to handle conflicts could not be, therefore, premeditated in terms of eradicating of social conflicts (Ali, 2010).

Generally, the Baloch and Pashtun live under the slogan of peaceful co-existence in spite of their countless and undeniable gulfs of interests. One of the major reasons behind this mutual acceptance is the difference of territorial lands where both the tribes live. But one thing is inevitable that this temporary peaceful environment never takes a few moments in being converted into a wide bloodshed between both the tribes whenever any grand mineral resource or profitable land is discovered along their geographical adjacent areas.

5. AGHAZ-E-HAQOOQ-E-BALUCHISTAN

The Baluchistan Package, NFC Award and 18th Amendment, as the statement would designate, bunched every issue, predicament and anxiety that the Baloch masses, the Baloch pro National Political Parties and the nationalists have spoken times and again for their rights over natural resources and pragmatic autonomy in Provincial affairs constitutionally as well as in financial matters. It is absolutely doubtful in the pragmatic deliverance and timely fulfillment of the high promises assured by the Federal government in Aghaz-e-Haqooq-e-Baluchistan Package and 18th Amendment. It is contrary to the traditional norms of Pakistani politics that the vital issues should be dealt pragmatically. All the decisions are taken in hurry and the constitutional packages are offered at the eleventh hour. In the case of Baluchistan, the Federal Government announced the comprehensive package to address the long awaited outstanding issues of the Baloch masses. The 18th Amendment proved as a hallmark in addressing the issues of provincial autonomy, constitutional disputes and financial matters. But, unfortunately, the deliverance of the package, the implementation of constitutional amendment issues and the fulfillment of financial autonomy are not properly implemented in letter and spirit by the Federal Government. Resultantly, all the packages and constitutional guarantees lost their value with the passage of time and the nationalists, once again, raised their voices

for the rights of Baloch masses. As pointed out above, there are many proportions of federal concerns relating to Baluchistan. As an alternative of consult some main concerning issues and put into practice the agreed upon solutions and then working on the trust built through established effects (Qureshi, 2009).

The basic issue related to the economic claims of the Baloch is the right distribution of natural resources between the centre and the province. Baluchistan is the richest unit in the federation of Pakistan as far as the natural resources like various types of minerals especially natural gas, copper, marble and gold. At the same time it has a very significant geographical and coastal position.

Now the problem is that Ports and Shipping are not only a federal subject but is also totally operated from Islamabad. The local population has always been complaining against their deprivation of the royalties concerning natural resources and their lack of participation in the development and income of the sea ports worth billions of dollars like Pasni and Gwadar. In the proposed package named “Aghaz-e-Haqooq-e-Baluchistan” thousands of new jobs ,royalty over all kind of natural resources and a healthy participations of the Baloch in the Gwadar Development Authority were promised by the federal government in 2010, is still waiting to be implemented even after the functionality of the Gwadar Port.



Figure 2
Source Google Earth

6. STRATEGIC VALUE OF BALUCHISTAN

Baluchistan is neither a desolate desert nor an unproductive and arid chain of mountains, nor is its people ignorant or backward in any respect than other Pakistanis. The people of Baluchistan are now wide awake. They know their democratic rights and liabilities, especially the enlightened class of the younger generation of Baloch who are engaged in a final struggle to demolish the barriers of tribalism and the remaining few pockets of vested interests. It appears that they are on the verge of wresting political leadership from the hands of a bunch of confused feudalists old guards within a short span of a couple of provincial elections, if such an opportunity is afforded to them.

From the general trend of things, it seems that Baluchistan is no more a paradise for political parasites, vested interests, and greedy exploiters, as some people

naively want to believe. By virtue of its vast hinterland, high mountains standing like strategic sentinels, and sturdy and warlike people, this province since pre-Islamic times, has served as a safety valve for India against outside aggression; and it is destined to continue to play the same role with regard to Pakistan also for all times to come. Economically, Baluchistan is a land of opportunities. It has immense resources in the form of mineral wealth, natural gas, petroleum, agriculture and forestry. It is destined to be the future economic storehouse of Pakistan and its fast-growing population, too, provided its resources are justly and sincerely utilized for the betterment of its people and the country at large.

Geo-strategically, Baluchistan is situated on the choke point of highly significant oil transportation sea routes of the world. It is placed on the crossroad of traditional trade routes of the big powers. Blessed with mineral resources, its immediacy to strategic regions, placed on the junction

of big powers, Baluchistan has great geo-political importance in the region of south Asia. To meet the challenges of the new order of the world, the big powers always use small powers to gain their national interests in the region. Placed near the close propinquity of buffer state Afghanistan, Baluchistan has become a region of great importance for regional and international powers to fulfill their ulterior objectives in the region. Its mineral resources, Gold, Copper, Iron, Sulphur and Marble attract the world powers towards Baluchistan to gain hegemony in this mineral rich region (Ahmad, 1989).

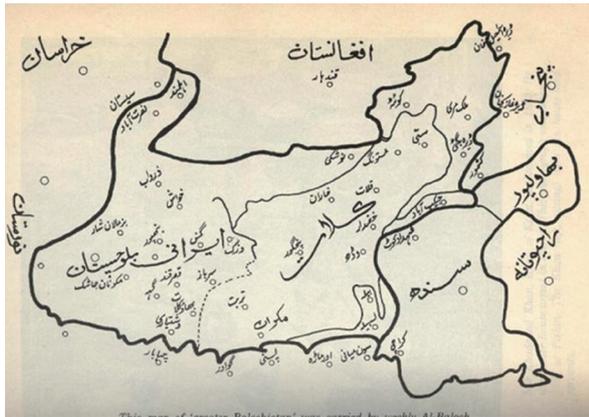


Figure 3
Map of Baluchistan Before Independence

Source: Berseeg, 2004 (Book: *Baloch Nationalism and Its Development*)

Despite the fact, Baluchistan has taken an “unpredictable place” squeezed in between “inconsequentiality and significance”, yet it has never gone its geo-strategic worth and value. The occasion that enhanced the value to Baluchistan is the “Russian intervention’ in Afghanistan on December 27, 1979. Accordingly, on one hand, the national and international politics of Pakistan had profound impact; while on the contrary, it persuaded the world history, in future. Additionally, Baluchistan has great geo-strategic significance owing to its mineral rich ores, coastal areas, Gwadar Port and old traditional trade route to Central Asia. Strategically, these characteristics enhanced the significance of this region (Anwar, 2011).

7. GWADAR SEA PORT IN BALUCHISTAN

Pakistan has a strategic position in the Indian Ocean region. The development of Gwadar Sea Port in Baluchistan has multiplied Pakistan’s economic and geo-political interests in this province. This area has been under the conscious observation of Big Powers like Russia and America before and after the fall of the great Soviet Union. America has been consistently realizing its ally, Pakistan, that Russia wants its approach to warm waters by using its various tactics of expansion and Pakistan, along with her neighboring Muslim state of

Iran, has been firmly believing that Baluchistan and its surrounded area is a hot cake for Russia because of the warm waters of Gwadar, Bandar Abbas and Chahbahar (Jehnaze, 2006).

Pakistan has been trying at every international forum to engage all the major players of the regions in purposeful and comprehensive dialogues to solve all the outstanding issues to ensure its own national protection. Quite recently, Pakistan has repeatedly invited the international community to pay required attention to the foreign interference in Baluchistan particularly from the Indian secret agencies. Moreover, Pakistani Prime Minister has invited his Indian counterpart to resume the dialogues between the two countries to resolve all the core issues and the Advisors on National Security from the both sides are going to meet in New Delhi to resume the chain of dialogues (Lee, 2006).

The Persian Gulf is an imperative trade route to its strategic location which gets in touch with the Indian Ocean. Approximately more than 80% of the world’s oil transported through the shores of the Persian Gulf to the different parts of the world. The geo-strategic position of Iran within the Persian Gulf region is such that the northern seashore of this Gulf belongs exclusively to Iran, which permits her to be in commanding position to control the Strait of Hormuz. The means of access through Hormuz are an issue of distress several times when Iran grasps its war games at the jaws of Gulf. Iran gazes on her character in the Indian Ocean as an expansion of her interests in the Gulf.

As America is enjoying its might and holding reins of economic and military interests in the central part of its continent along with the West Indian isles, India has been planning and executing the same wish of her military and geo-political expansion in the whole South Asian region. China’s control over Gwadar and the proposed Pak-China corridor are directly a threat to the fast growing India as the sole watchdog of every activity in the region. China, although both the countries consistently deny it at several international forums, has a long history of rivalry with India in every field of development specially military and political expansion. So, both these projects stimulate Indian power corridors to air their already burned flames of Baloch Nationalism and ethnicity in Baluchistan to not only close the southern part of China but also to disrupt the functionality of the projects (Mazhar, 2012).

China also deduces India to facilitating superpower’s existence in the Indian Ocean as a means of offsetting in China. The gravest challenge for China is that the U.S. military occurrence in Central, South and South-East Asia may weaken Chinese influence in these regions and make it more complicated for China to attain its security, fulfill its economic and energy goals in future. Until that time, China has secured its right of entry to the Indian Ocean through the Karakoram and coastal Highways. China has also established to link Gwadar port and constructed

China-Burma road to link Burmese ports and got a passage through the Malacca Straits (Anwar, 2011).

China is the major stake holder in getting the fruits from the strategic location of Baluchistan and improvisation of economic benefits from Gwadar port. The Gwadar port presents a strategic foothold in the energy prosperous region of Central Asian Republics (CARs) and offers an unconventional trade linkage to its western regions. Comparatively, Xinjiang Province positions approximately 4,500 kilometers from China's east seashore but just 2,500 kilometers from Gwadar. This crafts it possible for China to route some of its outdoor trade through the Gwadar port.

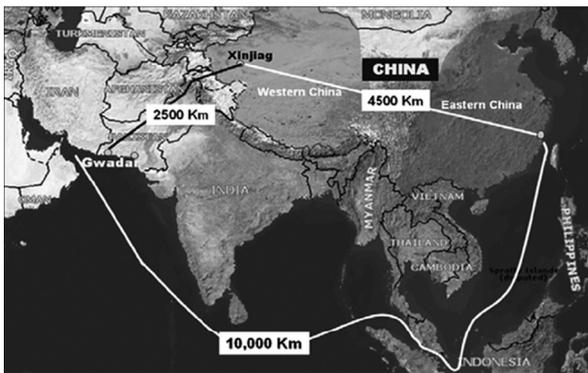


Figure 4
Map of Shortest Route of Gwadar Seaport for China
 Source: The trade potential and industrial development in Gwadar, Jehanzeb (2006)

Afghanistan is still in a state of war after the 9/11 incident and is passing through the process of nation building, and it is too soon to foresee how things settle down in the long run. Afghanistan lacks a systematic economy. The population depends on international aid and food support by the United Nations and other international agencies. But with the development of Gwadar, there are bright chances of economic boost in the adjoining areas of Afghanistan also as several states use Afghanistan as the route of transportation for imports and exports through the Gwadar Sea Port and resulting in the payment of a lot of taxes and road royalties to the Afghan government and helping in the stability of its economy (Baloch, 2010).



Figure 5
Gwadar Seaport; Source of Communication
 Source: Google earth

The European Union (EU) has two possible routes for the transportation of oil. One way is to establish gas and oil pipelines from the Central Asian Republics through Turkey. And the second possibility is the same kind of pipelines through Georgia. But the problem with both these options is the instability in the Kurdish areas of Turkey and also the separation movements in Georgia. In this scenario, the E.U. is left only with one safest option and that is the transportation through the Indian and Persian Seas. And to make it possible the E.U. have to rely on the ports of this area particularly Gwadar, as it is the shortest route for them. Even though the annihilation of the Cold War ruined a cause for a heavy U.S. naval occurrence in the Indian Ocean, American strategy makers were still putting in order for two major intimidation of wars in Northeast Asia and the Persian Gulf. The United States has a concern in maintaining the oceans unwrap to all, which is apparent from the existence of, in the smallest amount, the U.S. Middle East Force's presence in the Persian Gulf since 1949. In the Middle East the United States has Saudi Arabia, traditionally chief ally, which has blessed with 261 billion barrels of established oil reserve and up to one trillion barrels of eventually recoverable oil. These reserves approximately more than twenty-five percent of World's total oil reserves. At the time of 1970s Arab-western clash over oil issue, the United States and western world created an alliance of the Strategic Petroleum Reserves as the prime defense line in case of an oil predicament. The Republican President Bush made an unparalleled resolution to fill up the Strategic Petroleum Reserves to its full capability of 0.7 billion barrels (Bizenjo, 2006).

One of the most important assets of Baluchistan, Gwadar Port, is going to play an inevitable role in the imports and exports of several near and far neighboring countries. Japan is one of those states who are going to be the important beneficiaries of the Gwadar Port, as Japan imports almost 50 Lacs barrels of crude oil through the Persian Sea. Although Japan does not believe in the policies of intervention or military expedition yet being the one of the strongest economies of the world, it always supports peace and stability in the region of its economic and business interests. Japan has given the responsibilities of its geographical defense to the Americans and European forces but as a vital economy of the world it take every possible measure to ensure the smooth and proper protection of strategic importance of Baluchistan to run its business without any hindrance through Gwadar in near and far future (Haider, 2011).

However, Gwadar port presents an alternative view of Indian interests. At Gwadar instability is beneficial to India. The project to build a deep-water, year-round operational hub port contains the potential to restore Pakistan's economy while bolstering strategic and economic interests in China, Pakistan's closest ally. Not surprisingly, India has criticized the development of

the Gwadar port. India's naval chief, Admiral Sureesh Mehta, said that Gwadar could be used by Pakistan to "take control over the world energy jugular." In Gwadar, many see serious strategic implications for India. Gwadar port gives Beijing an "outpost on the Indian Ocean" as well as strategic depth of the Pakistani navy. In response to the development of Gwadar, India is helping Iran with a competing project in Chabahar. India's economic alliance with Iran is in direct response to the economic threat of Gwadar. Chabahar's location, only 120 miles from Gwadar, is astonishingly close. It shares the Gwadar advantages of being outside the Strait of Hormuz and is accessible from Central Asia. India's help in building Chabahar is helping to pave the way for Central Asian access. Although Chabahar is not as developed as Gwadar, it contains significant potential for Iran and India. Additionally, Indian Border Roads Organization announced plans to build a 200-kilometer road that would connect Cahaba to Afghanistan's garland route. India has also forged an economic alliance with Afghanistan. In 2007, India became Afghanistan's fifth largest donor with \$750 million in aid given each year. India also took steps to include Afghanistan in the South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC). India's goal in Afghanistan is to use it as a door through which they may gain access to the Central Asian states. As India races Pakistan and China for access to Central Asia, a destabilized Baluchistan is advantageous to India. Additionally, Gwadar presents a threat to India's pursuit of regional hegemony. Ashley Tellis posits that "India seeks to provide a modicum of hegemonic stability to the region at large." India's hegemonic power has been rooted in military victories while maintained by economic prowess. India has sought to maintain that position. Of critical importance to India's economy is India's ability to ship goods overseas. Hindrances in shipping lanes can severely damage their standing. India's principal economic competitor is China. India sees China as an external threat to Indian regional hegemony. Furthermore, India knows that Pakistan, through the help of an external partner, could limit India's hegemonic ambitions. As India looks out across its landscape, it sees growing Chinese influence surrounding it. The deep naval ties that China holds with Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Myanmar serve to make India wary of Chinese involvement elsewhere in the Indian Ocean (Ashraf, 2011). Baluchistan has been strategically imperative to Russia in the times of yore. Russia had hunted to have power over the transportation of Gulf oil through the occupation of Baluchistan. In Afghan war, there were associations between Russia and Baloch nationalist leaders, but at that time the Soviet Union was diffident to make such a blatant move by contributing substantial aid to the Baloch resistance movement. However, the yearning of Pakistan to way

in Central Asian States is at odds with the Russian interests.

DISCUSSION

Devolution of powers from the centre to the primary units has always been a point of concern between the center and the unit. Baluchistan is suffering the same problem as they have been consistently demanding implementation of those accords and contracts which were signed between their tribal heads and the pioneers of Pakistan's freedom Movement. Unfortunately, almost every central government of Islamabad did not give as much importance to the Baloch demands of autonomy and self rule apart from the central intervention in every minor or major issue in the province. The federal governments of Pakistan, due to their inefficient and poor decision making leadership, could not feel the real pains and troubles in the nerves and the hearts of the Baloch public. Even today in the era of self rule and devolution of decision making and revenue powers to the primary components of the state are still deprived of the basic rights to decide their own fate within their legally mandated domain. The need of the hour is that the Baluchistan should never be dealt as an imperialistic or defeated colony of some empire. It should be given maximum autonomy in their decision making and revenue collection and its utility should be ensured with the consent of the real local representatives. The government should keep a strict check over the attitude and behavior of the media representatives, bureaucrats and other state activists in Baluchistan.

The issue of effective governance, strongly established and functional institutions and setting up a strong infrastructure at every level of government has been continuously distorting the unity of Pakistan. Baluchistan has been the victim of this inefficiency and bad governance more than any other federating unit of Pakistan. Even when the central government tries to share the powers with the local Baloch Sardars and make them governors and chief ministers of the province, the Baloch public can get nothing out of it. The insurgency within the sphere of one federation is more difficult to be handled than a direct war with some other country or state. The issue of Baluchistan demands its handling in a particular manner as it is a challenge not only to the provincial government, state-actors, the power corridors of Islamabad but also directly targeting the unity and integrity of the federation of Pakistan.

The China-Pakistan cooperation in various fields especially in the project of Gwadar Seaport also has a lot of importance in the solution of Baluchistan issue. The power game in Afghanistan and strategic importance in Baluchistan entice the big giants equally to gain maximum out of it. Pakistan cannot afford any hindrance

in the development of Gwadar by any of the three major players' against this project. These players; America, India and Russia are the key player of world politics securing their interest in this region. By the name of sectarianism and ethnic violence some centrifugal forces are involved in weakening Pakistan federation and to make Gwadar unsafe and undependable to be developed as one of the major ports of the world. Pakistan, being extremely careful, has to take the steps to not only lemmatize the Chinese role more than their mandate in Gwadar but also have to keep a strict eye over the activities of other players in Afghanistan.

CONCLUSION

This complex and intermingled issue of Baluchistan that has been facing multi dimensional social, economic, geographical, political and strategic challenges that cannot be determined with full surety. Unfortunately, the real stake holders whether in the Baloch society or the state representatives could not put their fingers on the pulse of the people in time. Beginning from a political and economic annoyance with the centre, now Baluchistan has been prepared to fight the proxies of several major players on various levels. With the passage of time the issue is getting more complicated, hence, the capacity of the solutions has also been slipping out of the hands of state-actors. To preserve and protect the integrity of the federation of Pakistan, Baluchistan should not be taken as a big challenge but also as a test case to avoid any kind of rebellion or insurgency in any other part of the country. The local, political and military leadership must be on the same page to root out this bleeding wound of the federating body of Pakistan. The national interest must be superseded on everything and always remained the main concern; no foreign hand be thriving. Implementation of policies is needed rather than the lengthy round table conferences. Political dialogue and reconciliation initiative should be given preferences in resolving national issues. Last but not least, there is an awful need of change in thought and put into practice.

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