

Xi's New Security Concept and the Neighborhood Policy in the Framework of Silk Road Economic Belt

Zhanna Dossan*

PhD. Candidate

School of Political Science and Public Administration,
Wuhan University, Wuhan, Hubei, 430072 China

Abstract

The research paper aims to investigate the role of the Chinese president in developing security concepts in developing the economic Belt and Silk Road. With time, it has been observed that people of different nations started criticizing this road's development by criticizing its security policies. Therefore, this research paper tried to check the goals, scope, aims, objectives, and motivation behind China's development of this Belt and the security initiative in both local and international contexts. For this purpose, this study made use of a critical literature review approach and made use of 17 research articles from the Google Scholar website from 2015-2019. The results obtained show that the motivation behind the Silk Road's development is to increase goods transportation and economic contributions between the nations. Also, most scholars supported the statement that national security measures taken by the government of China have now resulted in the development of satisfactory comments by other nations. In the last five years, the security measures by NSC have allowed the management of different countries to increase their trust in the development of this Silk Road. The chances are high that this Belt will evolve quickly in upcoming times.

Keywords: Silk Road, security concept, Belt and road, neighbourhood

DOI: 10.7176/PPAR/10-11-10

Publication date: November 30th 2020

1. Introduction

The Silk Road Economic Belt is still an evolving long-term Chinese vision for developing Eurasian infrastructure, connectivity, growth, and elevating economic cooperation. It has been observed that a vast vacuum exists in many parts of Eurasia, which many states have not been able to fill, even after financial aids of existing multilateral developments. The Belt intends to reduce this vacuum for the longevity of good relationships with nations lying on this Belt. However, the political longevity efficacy of this Belt has not been given importance by neighbouring countries.

This research paper has examined the security aspects of the Silk Road Economic Belt and China's Belt and Road Initiative's components by observing security perspectives. The research paper is segmented into three parts. The first one explains why China went towards the development of this Belt and how this road initiative has influenced China's performance. The second part of the paper explains, the security issues to be faced by China have been adequately addressed by the government of China or not. The second part focuses on Eurasia, which is referred to as the landmass of Europe and Asia. At the same time, the third part of the paper summarizes findings based on the results and how security threats could be avoided.

China's government has developed both long- and short-term goals for the development of security in this One Belt One Road (OBOR) development. For example, (Fallon, 2015) argued that short term goals behind this framework are to ensure that appropriate human resource is applied to this road's development. Primarily, there is an increased need for assigning more social capital to the European External Action Service (EEAS) and other relevant agencies to develop a security platform on this Belt. Most of the security implications will come on the European end, and because of that, China is focusing on this aspect (Pop, 2016). After this, the government of China will reach out to relevant Chinese authorities for increasing and addressing short-term and long-term security implications. According to the Chinese government will assist the government of China in monitoring and assessing security implications regularly through monitoring.

1.1. Problem statement

Due to this Silk Road development, China's president said that many types of security implications could occur. For example, one of the research articles of (Fallon, 2015) argued that establishing more robust and frequent talks with all the nations contributing to the development of this road through collaboration would be required. The government of China will need to maintain good relationships with Non-governmental Agencies (NGOs) and other organized business by not sharing all the secrets with them. Problems can arise if the government does not stop local states and third party actors from sharing sensitive information with other parties or organizations (Pop, 2016).

Another major issue that can arise through this Silk Road development is delineating the EU's vision to be

more stable and secure in Eurasia. To achieve this, it would be necessary that the EU's own strategic goals and role are identified in Eurasia. This would require understanding with the USA and middle powers like Russia and India (Ibid). Therefore, policy suggestions are needed in this scenario for the development of a more strategic and unified strategic EU. Furthermore, the research can work as a guideline towards developing a new policy to establish China's government's behaviours and procedures.

Engaging with Afghanistan, China, and other nations, all of them must be engaged with each other rapidly to ensure that new security concepts are quickly observed. The Silk Road development will not be an easy task, and extensive thinking and relationship building will be required. The majority of the residents are entirely eager to improve diplomatic relations with other countries and Afghanistan after the construction of roads under Belt and Road Institutions (Pantucci and Lain, 2017). Specifically, CPEC should be utilized to enhance Afghanistan's performance to evaluate how Afghanistan's fragile security can be improved. However, this can only be done through regular collaboration between the nations.

Furthermore, in this scenario, China and Pakistan would be needed to ensure that connection and safeguarding are made appropriately. The understanding of different challenges is also necessary. Based on the problem statement observed, this research paper aims to examine the following questions:

- What should be the scope and aims of this Silk Road concerning security concerns?
- What are China's motivations behind the development of this Silk Road and the security issues it aims to address?
- What should be the nature of the interaction? How interaction with security dynamics in Central Asia?

1.2. Method

This part of the research paper clarifies some of the essential titles necessary in this analysis. For that motive, this part is distributed into numerous titles to describe research techniques opted for analysis. Research procedure consults to choose the finest approaches for analysis and to dispense the outcomes acceptably. Research approaches should have opted to appropriate responses to the queries and goals of an analysis expressed by (Cuervo-Cazurra et al., 2017). Forthcoming titles deliver the sympathetic of the ideas opted for the study and the instruments that have been utilized for bestowing outcomes.

2. Research Background

Research background explicates about the approaches and disposition of strategies opted for an analysis. According to (Ramirez et al. (2015), after the interpretation of background title, it becomes simpler for a person who reads to comprehend what kind of quarrels would emanate in the imminent titles. This research is contingent on qualitative research background because it illustrates Silk Road's scope and aims concerning security concerns. This research was grounded in China and gave the experience to China's motivations behind the development of this Silk Road. The administration of numerous corporations is eager to finance new affiliations with China because it is one of the developing countries of this world.

2.1. Research Philosophy

Research philosophy is contingent on the growth of new quarrels and outcomes because it emphasizes the adjustable affiliations. Beneath the analysis, it was debated that research philosophy is a significant aspect when scrutinizing various people in the study (Ibid). It also uttered several ways of research philosophies, which are quantitative and qualitative. This research utilizes qualitative research philosophy because it is qualitative in disposition. Besides, this research will be using the qualitative method, which is practical. The practicality method is contingent on actual debates and is backed with real figures and logical approaches.

Conferring to the research done by (Attia and Edge, 2017), practicality is now divided into two approaches: direct suitability and logical usefulness. However, this analysis utilizes an analytical practicality method, the figures of security concerns in Silk Road's development. The inferences emphasized will be logically measured to certify that China can take security movements in the growth of new schemes. It was argued by (Dumay and Cai, 2015) that the public of various experts would be eager to study the inferences, which can affect the outcomes. A logical practicality method is suggested for these types of analysis because conventional individuals are uninformed of these figures.

2.2. Measures

Measures in an analysis enable comprehending the dependability and legitimacy measures carry out for the study. The preventative measures should be carried out in each study because it upsurges the legitimacy arguments (Kumar, 2019). In this analysis, numerous efforts were carried out for the cumulative legitimacy and dependability of the research discoveries because they helped assess the most pertinent debates in an investigation. The research editorials of later than 2015 were only chosen for analytical evaluation because they are deliberated the latest and most relevant research editorials for depicting the quarrels. One more significant measure required for the growth

of arguments was also carried out by choosing the editorials from the website of Google Scholar.

The Google Scholar website is deliberated among the most significant manifestos while opting for the editorials for analytical evaluation, according to (Dumay and Cai, 2015). The researcher must certify that all the resources opted for analytical evaluation pursue the goals depicted and don't change to an irrelevant subject. Thus, this research only opted for research editorials, which sought no less than one of the goals beneath evaluation. This research also creates utilization of all the resources accessible for the analysis by putting on the keyword method. The keywords of China, Silk Road, Security, and neighbourhood policy were investigated in each opted editorial for evaluation. Moreover, to certify that communication is accessible in itemize, more than ten editorials were sketched from the Google Scholar website. So, these were few measures carried out for analysis.

2.3. Procedure

This research established few paces to pursue and certify that everything persists on the path in terms of gathering information. It launched and followed five rates for analysis. Firstly, the research goals were assembled to certify that each research goal remains integral with the subject, while the second pace comprised exploration of the intellectual editorials on Google Scholar. The third pace incorporated study by observing the arguments set up by the researchers for clarification of these affiliations by China for the development of Silk Road. The fourth pace includes the assembling of information by choosing the best quarrels for literature evaluation. However, in the last speed, literature evaluation was inscribed and verified for mistakes before concluding.

2.4. Data collection method

The data collection approach is deliberated as the most significant part of a research report methodology because it recognizes the instruments exploited for analysis. Data collection approaches are divided into quantitative and qualitative methods because they take up different analysis strategies (Snyder, 2019). This research only utilizes a qualitative system that comprises an assortment of information from the Google Scholar website. The approaches for analysis include opting for the editorials for literature evaluation. The primary purpose behind the non-opting of the quantitative method was that the public is not conscious of essential information of affiliation among China and security concepts under Silk Road's development. So, dependability and legitimacy study would have moved downwards.

2.5. Data analysis approaches

Data analysis approaches are also divided into quantitative and qualitative techniques, and meanwhile, this analysis uses a qualitative approach, so this approach has opted for study. According to a research editorial by (Ryder et al., 2019), if a researcher is opting for research approaches by analyzing the goals, it becomes hard to choose the techniques by suitably selecting them. This research analysis utilizes a qualitative information investigation approach, which is the literature evaluation method. This research assesses the motives behind China's affiliation development in the development of the Silk Road through a qualitative approach.

2.6. Sample size, sampling approach, and population

The sample size of the analysis is contingent on the editorials' opting through analytical review of the population and recognizing the study's accurate sample. The sample size can be opted by probability and non-probability sampling methods because it is deliberated as one of the reliable bases of analysis (Ramirez et al., 2015). This research utilizes resolute sampling methods because it is reflected among those methods that assist in opting the best investigation sample by pursuing an analysis's motive. This research uses a relentless sampling method because it opted the research editorials by examining which one of them is a conversing subject of this analysis, and 10-15 editorials was the sample size of this analysis opted in the previous five years to study the literature.

3. Data analysis

3.1 Scope and aim of Silk Road Economic Belt security concerns

This Silk Road or Belt is a proposal prepared by China to interlink different countries of Asia with Europe by developing focused infrastructure development. The study of (Fallon, 2015) argued that most states and economies are unwilling to participate in this Belt because of security concerns. The Belt intends to expand the transportation networks and markets, disperse and improve Eurasian production capacity, and facilitate capital, raw materials, goods, and energy resources. However, (Pop 2016) argued that this could not be done unless a substantial investment is made to develop road, port, aerial, and rail infrastructure. Besides, some of the risks will come from this sector because it would allow China's government to understand which nation is satisfied with this project and which one is not.

In some investigations, it is argued that investment in BRI would be needed because, in more than 65 nations, economies' sharing would be required. According to the latest statistics (Pantucci and Lain, 2017), only 65 countries would share 63% of the overall world's GDP. However, (Callahan, 2015) argued most people were

unwilling to participate in the activities out of the 65 nations, due to which security concerns have increased along with convincing problems. According to the findings reported by the study of (Pantucci and Lain, 2017), all the nations' performance can significantly improve if they accept the challenge and participate in the activities. While, the scope of Belt should be limited to the understanding of various scenarios, which can arise in its development. It is argued that this Belt has limited or no formal institutional structure, due to which deliberation and coordination are needed. (Callahan, 2015) demands that the performance of all the workers should be improved working under the Belt. It can be done if the implementation of the BRI is taking place across multiple levels. It also depends on Chinese ministries' responsibilities division, and this can be done by managing the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and the local provincial or municipal authorities (MOC) as argued by (Ibid). However, (Pantucci and Lain, 2017) added that both provincial and municipal authorities' contributions should be included in the plan, along with their assistance in project help. Funding mechanisms for both the Belts have already been observed in the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIDB) and the New Silk Road Fund (NSRF). But this is not enough to manage such a megaproject.

3.2 Motivations of China behind the development of Silk Road

Many scholars and experts working in China have agreed that most parts of the region have already accepted BRI. (Callahan, 2015) argued that Silk Road had become a signature project of President Xi, which has resulted in the development of his excellent image worldwide. Given the top-down opacity and nature of China's policymaking, it has been speculated that BRI should be introduced with more specific goals. However, the study of (Swaine, 2015) argued that all the scholars' views are divided on this topic, whether Silk Road is essential in resolving economic, national, geostrategic, or national development issues. For example, (Ferdinand, 2016) argued that geoeconomic and geopolitical pressures are the two reasons behind this low growth of BRI to date. The squeezing of strategic space in the Asia-Pacific region and the emergence of China are the two motivational factors China is supporting the development of this road.

Another motivation of China behind the development of this initiative is developing new markets and balancing its growth. In an investigation presented by (Ibid), it is argued that domestic industries by municipal and provincial authorities are also some of the motivational reasons behind the development of economic targets. In terms of the struggling global economy, this Belt project aims to meet the targets of domestic targets by developing a growing model that emphasizes the manufacturing of goods. Supporting the argument (Huasheng, 2016) wrote that this Belt would benefit China's development by stimulating demand for agricultural goods in both the agriculture and industry sectors. Therefore, it would result in a good relationship between China and other nations coming under this Belt or benefiting from it.

China also designs this Belt to overcome the difficulties in the future of trade. This Belt can contribute to balancing the trade between the nations, which are operating on this Belt because it can majorly influence all the countries working on this Belt. According to the research article (Pantucci and Lain, 2017), regional demand for industrial growth and agricultural goods will significantly decline if other nations do not support this project. However, China is willing to convince other countries, and most of them look convinced. Nonetheless, (Huasheng, 2016) argued that most of the nations are not ready to build this Belt because they believe that China is looking for its benefits rather than collective growth. However, this is not the case because Belt will open up the doors for all the nations coming on its way, and hence this Silk Road must be built from each end.

3.3 Interaction with security dynamics in Central Asia

The performance of all the regions depends on illustrating their personal as well as collective growth. In an investigation presented by (Ibid), a high number of drivers can lead to evolutionary designing of this initiative. For example, in the last decade, China's geographic scope has expanded a lot, especially in an overseas context. He also added that security concerns are significant factors stopping other nations from participating in global activities. Supporting the statement (Ferdinand, 2016) wrote that all people would be willing to participate in this domain. However, a proactive attempt must be made towards the development of a political and security environment. Security contingencies must be checked regularly by the government of China to evaluate whether their intentions are changing or not.

Although the Chinese government is not explicitly explaining BRI concepts in its security plans, the initiatives adopted and planned by the management have not emerged in the development of new ideas. Most of the security concepts developed by China do not fall under International Security concepts, because it has evolved over a while without addressing the concerns of its followers (Jie, 2017). Included in this framework's development is China's National Security Commission (NSC) is one of the central bodies concerning the development of the new framework. However, (Deepak, 2018) argued that this security commission has failed to provide security by addressing the issues of the Cold War in the context of broader global trends. Instead, it addresses the issues of common security problems, which are not according to the dynamics of the 21st century.

In some investigations discussed in this paragraph, the scholars have argued that changes in NSC policies

have taken place in the last periods; however, some small flaws needed to be eradicated. In an investigation by (Shrestha, 2015), the authors argued that most people did not participate in the development of constructive posture by involving themselves in foreign policy development and sufficiently addressing security issues. However, (Hu, 2016; Minghao, 2015) stated that under President Xi Jinping, diplomatic efforts have resulted in low power relationship developments, due to which a market shift has been observed in China's self-image. As a regional director, people now perceive China and checking their performance regularly and willing to invest in the development of new security concerns regularly.

All the security agencies' performance has improved in the last few years because of support given by security agencies. (Rajan, 2015; Currie, 2017) stated that regionally China has more assertive differences in positing a relationship, as exemplified by the study of NASC. The BRI and the Silk Road have developed a security platform for developing new and improved security frameworks. Supporting the statement (Dellios and Ferguson, 2017; Banerjee, 2016) stated that China has become more visible on the world stage because of this BRI. These changes would be needed in the future. Although the Belt is mainly referred to as the opening of economic corridors referred to economic terms by the officials, it is based on its officials' long-term economic term.

The Belt is also touching on several elements under revised national security concepts and its reorganization, which was announced in 2014. The investigation of (Pieper, 2018) also stated that the national security concept is now depending on 11 different traditional and non-traditional elements, including political, military, cultural, science and technology, resources, homeland, economic, information ecological, and nuclear. Most importantly, this security concept is linking internal and external factors of security together.

4. Conclusion

This research aimed to investigate the role of the Chinese president in developing security concepts in the development of the economic Belt and Silk Road. Over time, it has been observed that people of different nations started criticizing this road's development by criticizing its security policies. Therefore, this research paper tried to check the goals, scope, aims, objectives, and motivation of China behind this Belt and the security initiative in both local and international contexts. For this purpose, this study used a critical literature review approach and used 17 research articles from the Google Scholar website from 2015-2019. The results obtained show that the motivation behind the development of the Silk Road is to increase goods transportation and economic contributions between the nations. Besides, most scholars supported the statement that national security measures taken by the government of China have now resulted in the development of satisfactory comments by other nations. The security measures in the last five years by NSC have allowed the management of different countries to increase their trust in the development of this Silk Road. The chances are high that this Belt will evolve quickly in upcoming times.

References

- Attia, M., & Edge, J. (2017). Being a reflexive researcher: a developmental approach to research methodology. *Open Review of Educational Research*, 4(1), 33-45.
- Banerjee, D. (2016). China's One Belt One Road Initiative—An Indian Perspective. *Perspective*, 14, 1-10.
- Callahan, W. A. (2016). China's "Asia Dream" The Belt Road Initiative and the new regional order. *Asian Journal of Comparative Politics*, 1(3), 226-243.
- Currie, B. (2017). *Reconciling the Silk Road Economic Belt and the Eurasian Economic Union in Central Asia: An Impossible Endeavor?* (Doctoral dissertation).
- Deepak, B. R. (Ed.). (2018). *China's Global Rebalancing and the New Silk Road*. Springer.
- Dellios, R., & Ferguson, R. J. (2017). The human security dimension of China's belt and road initiative. *J. Mgmt. & Sustainability*, 7, 48.
- Dumay, J., & Cai, L. (2015). Using content analysis as a research methodology for investigating intellectual capital disclosure. *Journal of Intellectual Capital*.
- Fallon, T. (2015). The new silk road: Xi Jinping's grand strategy for Eurasia. *American Foreign Policy Interests*, 37(3), 140-147.
- Ferdinand, P. (2016). Westward ho—the China dream and 'one belt, one road': Chinese foreign policy under Xi Jinping. *International Affairs*, 92(4), 941-957.
- Hu, W. (2016). Xi Jinping's 'Big Power Diplomacy' and China's Central National Security Commission (CNSC). *Journal of Contemporary China*, 25(98), 163-177.
- Huasheng, Z. (2016). Afghanistan and China's new neighbourhood diplomacy. *International Affairs*, 92(4), 891-908.
- Jie, Y. (2017). China's One Belt, One Road: A Reality Check. *London School of Economics Strategic Update*, 17.
- Kumar, R. (2019). *Research methodology: A step-by-step guide for beginners*. Sage Publications Limited.
- Minghao, Z. (2015). China's new Silk Road initiative. *IAI Istituto Affari Internazionali*, 15(37), 1-12.
- Pantucci, R., & Lain, S. (2017). *China's Eurasian Pivot: The Silk Road Economic Belt*. Routledge.

- Pieper, M. (2018). Mapping Eurasia: contrasting the public diplomacies of Russia's 'Greater Eurasia' and China's 'Belt and Road' initiative. *Rising Powers Quarterly*, 3(3), 217-237.
- Pop, I. I. (2016). Strengths and challenges of China's "One belt, One road" Initiative. *Centre for Geopolitics and Security in Realism Studies*.
- Rajan, D. S. (2015). China: President Xi Jinping's South Asia policy—Implications for India. *South Asia Analysis Group*, 27.
- Ramirez, R., Mukherjee, M., Vezzoli, S., & Kramer, A. M. (2015). Scenarios as a scholarly methodology to produce "interesting research". *Futures*, 71, 70-87.
- Shrestha, R. B. (2015). Enhancing Economic Cooperation between China, Nepal and Beyond. *Nepal Council of World Affairs*, 35.
- Snyder, H. (2019). Literature review as a research methodology: An overview and guidelines. *Journal of Business Research*, 104, 333-339.
- Swaine, M. D. (2015). Xi Jinping's address to the central conference on work relating to foreign affairs: Assessing and advancing major-power diplomacy with Chinese characteristics. *China Leadership Monitor*, 46(1).