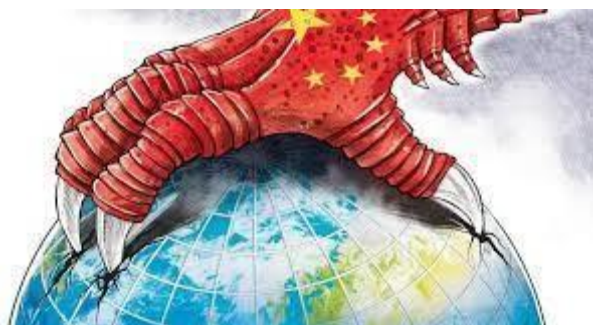


## **A Case Study with Reference to International Politics**

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*Amity Law School, Patna. Session- 2020-25.*

**Exercise of Power –**

### **CHINA WIELDING ITS SWORD AROUND THE WORLD**



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Date of Submission: 12-06-2023

Date of Acceptance: 28-06-2023

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### **A Case Study with Reference to International Politics**

This topic is a special topic that can be understood and explained only and only after explaining the concept of state from the international perspective. After explaining the concept of state, it is also necessary to explain the applicability of politics in that particular state. The effect of politics running in one state upon another state is the international politics of one state upon another.

Looking up the definition of state under international state, it says that the state is a political concept that refers to the exercise of power or the ability to make and enforce rules.

To be a state, it has to have some essential characteristics which are explained:

1. Population – A state must have people governed by the government. These people are commonly referred to as 'citizens' sometimes, and a number does not even matter.
2. Territory – A state must have a well and clearly defined territory. This is referred to as 'border' which is a mark that symbolizes the end of one state and where another begins from.
3. Government – Government is powerful machinery that enforces rules and regulations through common law of the land. Government is the institution which any society enforces public policies through Bureaucratic institutions. Consists of people with legitimate authority to exercise its powers.

4. Sovereignty – A state must have supreme power and authority to act. This includes the authority to make its own decisions, policies, reforms, public affairs, external affairs, etc. with little or no interference from the other states or countries.

Intending to govern any state, the role of politics is very fatal. The politics of any state is used to decide how the state functions. Before globalization, the concept that international law is the vanishing point of jurisprudence was prevalent. As result, international politics was dealt with by virtue of independent relations of one country with another. After the increased role of the United Nations, the relation between the countries started functioning under views of the different countries sitting together under the umbrella of the United Nations. There are a series of laws which different countries used to adopt under the flag of united nations being one of the member countries and subsequently the adopted law that they use to pass before their respective sovereign bodies and as such the said law which was first accepted internationally and thereafter adopted municipally. For example, the best examples of such laws in India are the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, Human

Rights Act, Juvenile Justice Act, Protection of Environment Act, Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, etc.

The subsequent development in the technology, due to increase of interdependency of business upon each other as well as the increasing role of UN, the association of regional countries started, e.g., SAARC, ASEAN, NATO, European Union, etc. began, the role of which emanates in the balance of power being exercised internationally by the countries and maintain cooperation aimed towards various social goals.

The concept of power is central to international relations. Yet the most important sphere is an actor controlling another to do what that other would not otherwise do. Power is the production, through social relations, the exercise of the effects that shape the capacities of actors to determine their circumstances and fate.

China, in today's times, has become an integral part of the Southern Asian geopolitical and strategic environment. It shares borders with Afghanistan, Pakistan (given its occupation of a portion of Jammu and Kashmir), India, Nepal, Bhutan, and Myanmar. As neighboring states, each is affected--some positively and some negatively--by China's military power, posture, strategic thinking, developed naval and defense ties with all these Indian Ocean littoral states, and evolving role. China thus shapes in a major way the regional balance of power and security environment. Through this essay, we are going to explore the power exercised by China internationally floating through various countries and organizations on the verge of being reduced to being puppets in China's hands.

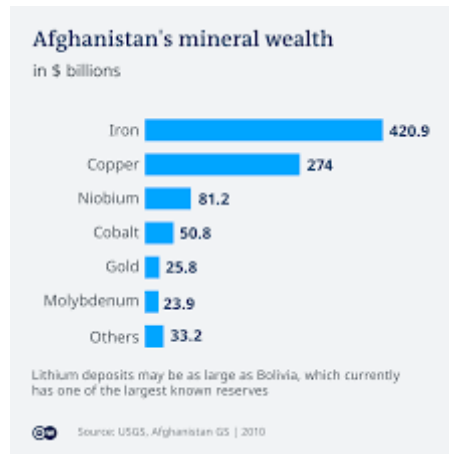
#### **CHINA: A SAVIOUR OF TALIBAN OR A DEVOURER OF AFGHANISTAN?**

*"China, our great neighboring country, can play a constructive and positive role in the reconstruction of Afghanistan and also in the economic development and prosperity of the Afghan people": Suhail Shaheen, spokesman for Taliban in Doha Office.*

Going through history, China was a major actor in the Afghan civil war and a key supplier of small arms to the insurgents in the combined effort of the United States and Pakistan to force a Soviet withdrawal from the country. It bears the responsibility along with the Soviet Union, the United States, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia in destroying the Afghan state, flooding it with weapons, and then failing to rebuild an alternative state structure and a regime of peace.

Amidst the 2021 Taliban crisis, U.S. invasion of Afghanistan from Oct 2001 to Aug 2021, for its freedom & development, putting in 2 decades and billions of dollars for Increase in Education, women empowerment, legislative bodies, independent courts & a failed attempt for the erection of autonomous govt but all from U.S.'s cheques and all in vain, so now, who is going to be the provider for Afghanistan? With the sudden evacuation of the U.S. from Afghanistan has led to a stunned economy, plagued by corruption and dependence on international aid, an Islamic country not entirely free and without proper democracy or social content and all meager development in the past 20 years nosediving, and the most disparaging lack of sense of representation from the Centre had led the land to become a great prey for Taliban to get social support and uphold its terrorism.

But now, with the Taliban's "Jungle Raj", a polity crisis having more than 14 million Afghans face food insecurity, hijack of U.S. backed govt. lacking elite support and rampant fall in international donations which is responsible for 70% of public expenditure, its most developed media sector cascading towards unsustainability with media persons being tortured and flogged in public, With the danger of hyperinflation and case of severe problems in financing basic public needs making it a cultural attraction for terrorist groups like ISIS and Al-Kaieda will Afghanistan become Chinese colony?



According to IMF, Islamic extremists led Afghanistan to need more than 5 billion dollars of external financing to keep the country from collapsing. Who's got the bouquet bind with intentions with the courage as the leaves and power as the flower, when a recipient is a man personifying the land full of minerals enough to make the patron a superpower in the coming era? What lies ahead to keep the modern world running with the era of oil, gas, and coal ending and a requisite for energy transitions craving minerals such as copper, lithium, or other rare piles of earth that Afghanistan may be having in abundance. As predicted by the International Energy Agency, demands for lithium are to rise 40 times incoming 30-40 years where Afghanistan could become the new Saudi Arabia of lithium with its top reserves of lithium in the world 60 million tons of copper; But to exploit it essentials would be energy and water resources, security, infrastructure, and skilled workforce along with 10-20 years to which not in a million years would a country without a stable political and legal framework, of which Afghanistan has nothing, dares to invest. Options are two: U.S. and China- one of which has recently unloaded its shoulder after a forsaken effort of 20 years and the significant other has been the largest foreign investor in Afghanistan since 2010. Now, with an interesting history, backout of U.S., lack of interest in democracy or human rights, and Taliban in Afghanistan in need of political protection and financial investment, China with its highly advanced technologies, financial prowess, Veto in the UN Security Council with history of investing in high-risk countries, and an insatiable appetite for minerals and business to satiate its theocratic emirate needs to become World Rank I Power, comes China's exercise of its powers into play where she is dead set on raw materials from Afghanistan when Taliban has already promised to protect Chinese investments in Afghanistan for its exercise of power on the weak nation Afghanistan to gain more power for itself in the technological war with U.S. China had indulged in 3 billion dollars lease for copper mine which is the largest foreign investment in Afghanistan. Then again in 2011, in a deal to drill 3 oil fields in Amudarya River Basin for 25 years... Current Chinese interest in Afghanistan, given its continuing civil war and virtual statelessness, is low, and relations weak. But these would certainly grow should the situation stabilize or even if not, the future is showing.....



***"China, 'our great neighbor' will help Afghanistan forge peace": Taliban in 2021.***

**CHINA'S TIBET: A STORY OF PROPAGANDA.**

When we come to the Chinese exercise of power in Tibet “the roof of the world”, it is no secret from the world. China has been, from time to time, using its considerable political power to keep Tibet as its territory. Despite Tibet being an exotic place with its inexplicable monasteries and temples and the largest Tibetan plateau larger than France itself and bordering Bhutan and Pakistan;



The politics in Tibet, particularly Tibetan Autonomous Region is controlled by the Chinese Communist Party, who particularly adores the doctrine of atheism and rather notoriety for its religious persecution of Tibetan Buddhism, Falun Gong, Muslims in Xinjiang, and Christianity in China, with an iron fist by banning their mother tongue and demolishing the beautiful monasteries mainly, because they want to demolish the Tibetan custom of 'Dalai Lama' (religious leader) being born and believed to be the reincarnation of the goddess, who becomes the monarch for a lifetime.

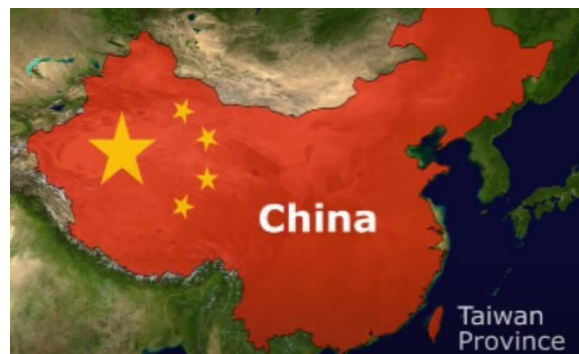


With the current Dalai Lama being a world-renowned and Noble Prize recipient and being ranked as Topmost amongst the World Leaders, and with the worldwide support of free Tibet campaign, protection of the “yeeger minority”(rather less known but the real title for the population of Tibet) from China has not yet been possible due to exercise of Chinese hard power exercise over Tibet. Even though the Tibetan culture had remained untouched since 1391, a political system based on a kind of feudalism mixed with a Buddhist theocracy, despite China’s and Mongolia’s rule, and it seemed like Tibet could be a free sovereign when Chinese dynasties withdrew in 1912, China's CCP through the fatal military exercise in 1950, annexed Tibet, with a population of 550 million and Tibetans only limited to 2.5 million and conquered a part of Tibet under Maoist reform with 17 point policy to which when the people rebelled, China not only crushed them by total brutal repression with terrorism, destroying half a million antiquities, arresting and torturing monks and nuns, burning the scriptures looted & destroyed over 6000 monasteries and killed 87000 Tibetans by 1962 and forcing the Dalai Lama to be saved by taking shelter in India, rather kidnapped of the 5-year-old Tenzin "little Dalai Lama" all by its military force and ridiculous but powerful political ideologies. Then during mao's cultural revolution i.e. by 1966 only 8 monasteries were left. From 1952 when the U.S. had supported the Free Tibet movement, China again by using its political relations and power with the U.S. brought on a reverse gear for Tibet from 1972 due to which the number of monks fell from 100 to 0 real quick and a constant human rights violations and marginalization through which the damage though almost impossible to understate the current condition of Tibet on Human development index is worse and the real cause behind all this:



**TIBET BEING THE**

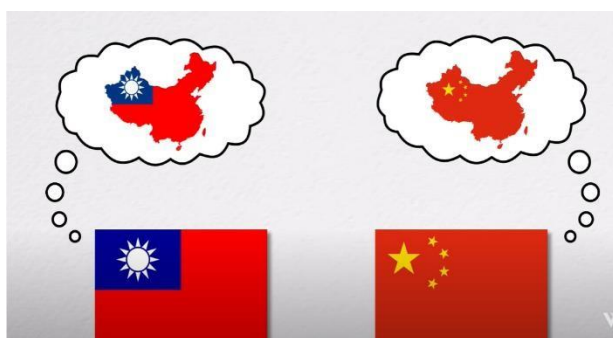
**AXIS OF ASIA:** let me just explain this real quick, the rivers are shown in the figure is fed by the ice the melts in the Tibetan plateau, the Yangtze and the Yellow- the two most important rivers for China, the Mekong river upon which the Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam rely upon, Irrawaddy that sustains Myanmar, the Brahmaputra and the Ganges of Bangladesh and India, and many other endless rivers that defines and nourishes all other countries of Asia and places like Oasis of the Tarim Basin, so, capturing Tibet in a way gives the reign of the whole of Asia's freshwater, on which half of the world lives, in the hands of China which she knows to strategize well for exercising power over more than half of the World's population. Recently China has completed Tibet's biggest Hydro Power plant.



**TAIWAN: REPUBLIC OF CHINA OR HOSTAGE OF CHINA?**

Taiwan's official name is the "Republic of China" while China's is the "People's Republic of China". The issue that resides here is that when the historic Civil wars in China, had receded one faction (Nationalists) of the original Chinese govt. to Taiwan and another part (Communists) to China, and UN had recognized "People's Republic of China" as original China, leading to One China Policy between Taiwan and China, govt. of both, the countries saw themselves as legitimate China. But along the current situations, the present ruling party of Taiwan the Democratic People's party reject One China Policy or the Chinese Unification and beliefs itself to be its own independent Country Now even though not being recognized as a sole country by the UN despite having its parliament, president, passport and de-facto embassies, Olympic representation under the ambiguous title of Chinese Taipei. For nanotechnology, autonomous driving, 5g, and digital ecosystems, that we hold through the smartphones, cars, tablets, pads, and the new necessities for the continuation of the world that has been getting smaller and smaller





through globalization, especially during the despicable situation of Covid-19, getting hold of Faster thinner, and more powerful



*“Semiconductors are no longer just components, but strategic resources that all major economies must secure”.*

**ARISA LIU,**  
Analyst  
Taiwan Economic Research Institute

semiconductors are key to powerful geopolitical clashes in the present time and controlling the manufacture of most advanced chips in the 21<sup>st</sup> century may easily be synonymous to 20<sup>th</sup>-century control of oil supply as it would determine the technological leader of the world who could be in a position to overtake military and economic power of the world with ease which is just the case for China's theocratic ideals and since Taiwan is the country coming in rapid attention for its large scale most advanced chip production with its companies like tsmc for iPhones and MacBooks. China is hostile towards the idea of Taiwan being recognized as an independent country and threatens to unify China and Taiwan by force if necessary. The recent occurrence of the military exercise by China in the South China sea which is said to have the aim of threatening display of China's power to Taiwan and Taiwan's antonymic approach to it says a lot about the exercise and influence of powers in the international politics.

### HONG KONG: CHINA'S KING KONG?



Going through the history of Hong Kong, it is well known that Hong Kong was seized from the Chinese by Great Britain at gunpoint during the Opium wars and remained British Colonial Conclave 1997 when Britain returned it to China, Kowloon, and Hong Kong, and other islands. Since Britain had fully receded, when it asked China for an extension of lease China had denied as a result of which Hong Kong instead of being a self-sufficient entity, its existence became subject to Beijing pleasure and a permanent hostage to Chinese Political, Economic and Military whims, and pressures. Even when China had allowed Hong Kong a so-called



a high degree of local autonomy and economic administrative freedom for

Article 27

Hong Kong residents shall have freedom of speech, of the press and of publication; freedom of association, of assembly, of procession and of demonstration; and the right and freedom to form and join trade unions, and to strike.

exchange for Britain's twin principle bargain for the return of territorial parcels consisting of Hong Kong, Kowloon, and other islands, often referred to as Sino-British Joint Declaration on Hong Kong of 1984, the exercise of power by Chinese and British state is to be taken to notice. Through this "one country, two systems", though the political and legal rights of the citizens and the press of Hong Kong as so said had not been disturbed, the radio, televisions, and many other forms of media were exercised upon by a certain level of power by Chinese rule, rather in the recent notice, had come the 'Umbrella Protests' against the extradition laws which somehow lead to China wielding more power over Hong Kong than it already is by allowing the suspects to be tried on by Chinese and Taiwanese Govt. The more alarming part of protests was rather how it was crushed through brutal military and political forces by China through attacks, captures, arrests, killings of activists, and missing and booksellers.

#### NEPAL: CHINA'S PROXY AGAINST INDIA

When we come to the very recent issues i.e. to the problems caused by China to us "India" through as previously very own ally "Nepal". After its successful attempt in building various military camps along the line of actual control, China has shifted its act to Nepal where Beijing is seen to be pouring billions in investment, influencing the then Nepali PM Oli's Govt. which and expanding its boundary into Nepal by capturing 36 acres of Nepalese Land which even though was denied by Nepal officially was seen in Nepal's resistance to assist India and all of it had led to a Cold War between India and China with instances of military border fights reported throughout the World.

#### PAKISTAN: CHINA'S NEW COLONY?!

Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Iran are China's most important Muslim neighbors, its corridor to the Gulf and West Asia, and the key to the security of its Muslim majority province of Xinjiang. Nearly 90 percent of China's total arms transfers are targeted at Pakistan, Iran, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Thailand, and Sri Lanka, all neighbors of India.

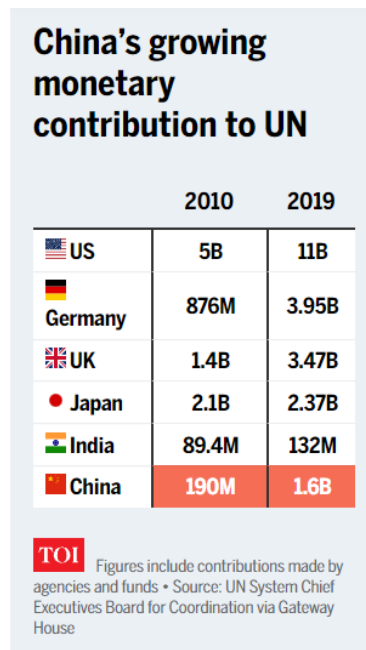


Chinese attempts to colonize Pakistan, a report by European Foundation for South Asia studies has been seen through CPEC of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. CPEC passes through the Gilgit-Baltistan Region and while aiming to create railways, and industrial zones Not only this but the



Pakistan’s growing dependence on China for Development projects could turn Pakistan into Beijing’s leisure fr survival. As we have seen also during the Covid-19 times of how Pakistan is already under China’s heavy debts but China’s masks unimaginable debt loans in the name of so-called investments (which are actually loans on very high rates) to Pakistan through its financial prowess which can also be seen through the trade deficits having doubled from 2012 -2017 to almost triple the tune to 12.9 billion dollars. China has been exercising not only its soft power in Pakistan but there also had been reports of Woman Trafficking from Pakistan to China which in itself is symbolizing a kind of evolution of Pakistan into China’s enslaved colony. This can pose a serious threat to India as a nation and to its integrity.

**CHINA’S CREEPING CAPTURE ON THE UNITED STATES: A RED FLAG!**



When we come to the topic of the UN, China's creeping capture' by trying to seize control of top multilateral organs organizations so they could be "weaponized" for its own advantage. In the UK parliament’s foreign affairs committee’s report of May 2021 titled “ In the room: the UK’s role in multilateral diplomacy”, the Creeping capture of six major multilateral international organizations by Beijing through the steady acquisition of key official positions, use of economic leverage and aggressive diplomacy or buying tactics like the World Health Organisation, Interpol and the United Nations Office



for the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Instances such as the election of the ninth director-general of the Food and Agriculture Organisation in 2019 when a coincidence happened of the post having been made vacant by the Cameroonian Government when China had offered to waive its 78 million dollars debt.

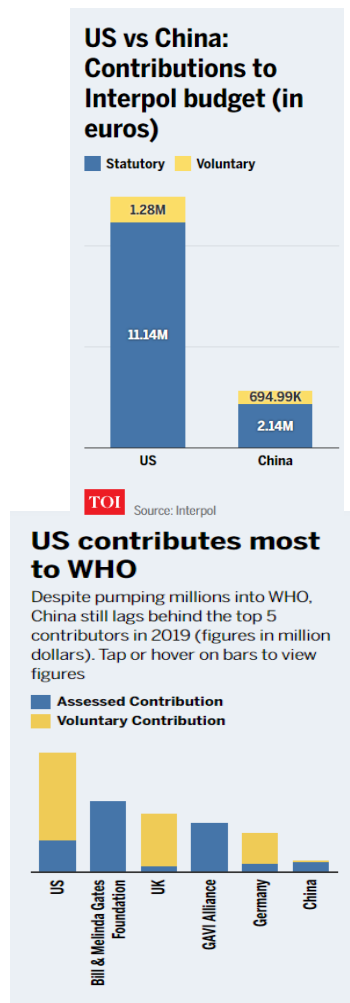
In the second instance where it can be seen that four of the fifteen specialized UN bodies like International Civil Aviation Organisation, the International Telecommunication Union, the Food and Agriculture Organisation, and the UN Industrial Development Organisation is all headed by Chinese Nationals is headed by China while also holding as many as 9 out of 15 deputy positions in the UN agencies.

It is said that China also enjoys influence at some of these organizations through "proxies" and of the "Bullying" as a part of aggressive diplomacy, basically exercise of influential power for gaining influences at organizations like OHCHR, Human Rights Commission, and even the WHO. For instance, Tedros Adhenom Ghebreyesus, the current director-general of the WHO, was elected with China's support in 2017 and is the former health and foreign minister of Ethiopia, which is one of the largest recipients of Chinese investments in Africa.

China's influence through money power can also be seen in its growing voluntary contributions to the UN almost by 346% from 2010-19 to gain strategic leverage in several organizations especially UNDP where it can influence the way projects develop. Interestingly it is seen is that despite some other countries like the U.S. investing more, China invests as little money as would buy them the influence as said by Rear Admiral Kenneth Bernard to The Atlantic.

In 2018, China became the World Bank's third most influential member following the international financial institution's latest capital increase. This increased China's clout within the financial institution, giving it the highest voting power after US and Japan.

Especially during the Pandemic crisis, the instances have been reported from WHO, like how China had jumped at the opportunity when Trump had cut fundings to WHO making WHO vulnerable to interference and manipulation through funding, the wielding of soft power, where China holds the aces.



The growth in China's overall national power, including its military capabilities, and how China's leaders will employ this power will have far-reaching implications for Asia and the world. Rapid and sustained industrialization and modernization over the next two to three decades is likely to transform this largely agrarian state into a powerful entity, given sheer demographic realities. Power in the Chinese case has a strong military component since the modernization of the armed forces and the military-industrial complex is an important goal for China. In addition, China's nuclear weapon capability, its permanent status in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), the large size of its armed forces, and the crucial role of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) in its neo-authoritarian political system and national security policy-making give it a special place in the Asian security and strategic order. China has begun to play an international role far larger than its overall capabilities. Its status as Asia's only permanent member of the UNSC and nuclear weapon state, its rapidly growing economy, and the lure of its large market, its size, and pivotal geopolitical location have given China the strategic weight and influence of a major power. China's assertive nationalism, a strong sense of self-importance and independence, a national resolve and strategy geared towards attaining a high level of power in all its dimensions -- economic, military, technological, and politico-cultural.

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