

Full Length Research

# Changing World Order and the Evolving Triangular Relationship among China, India and United States: The Possibility of Shifting the Pivot Position of US.

Nishantha Hettiarachchi and Dr. Upul Abeyrathne

<sup>1</sup>Ph. D. Candidate in Political Science, Department of Public Policy, University of Ruhuna, Matara, Sri Lanka.  
Corresponding author's E-mail: nishanthah@sjp.ac.lk

<sup>2</sup>Senior Lecturer, Department of Public Policy, University of Ruhuna, Matara, Sri Lanka. E-mail: upul@econ.ruh.ac.lk

Accepted 31 August 2015

The end of cold war had marked a beginning of new world order. China and India became significant actors for their gradual rise into great stature in international politics. The developments in international politics such as terrorism had posed threats and open economic policy created new opportunities. Those developments required cooperation among the US, China and India. The relations among the three nations had been conceptualized as strategic triangle following the realist school of international politics where US was perceived as the pivot actor. The objective of the study was to map the content of relationship among US, China and India through a historical perspective. Consequently, an attempt was made to predict the possible direction of this triangular relations and motives for such relations resulted in new type world order characterized by multipolar powers while United States remaining as the super power in the foreseeable future. The data for the study was collected through secondary sources and they had been descriptive presented to identify evolving trends of relations among the three nations. The study had concluded that Chinese and Indian ascendancy would displace US as the super power in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

**Key Words:** China, India, United States, Triangular Relationship, Conflict, Cooperation

**Cite This Article As:** Hettiarachchi N, Abeyrathne U (2015). Changing World Order and the Evolving Triangular Relationship among China, India and United States: The Possibility of Shifting the Pivot Position of US. *Inter. J. Polit. Sci. Develop.* 3(8): 340-349

## INTRODUCTION

### Background of the Study

The scholarly literature on US, China and India revealed a persistence of triangular strategic relationship among the three countries from the very beginning of the two new nations i.e. China and India since 1940s. The significance of this relationship has increased in recent past with the gradual stature that the latter two states had

acquired with economic and military prowess in recent past. The significance of the rise of two nations had been studied by many from different perspectives. Many had paid attention to the power relations among the super power of US, China and India and future direction of world affairs in the new global order characterized by open economy and emerging threat of terrorism (Malik 2011; Gandhi, P.J. 2007; Yuan 2007). The literature on

relations among the three nations can be divided into two for the purpose of clarity and situate the present study within those broad scholarly works. Some of the studies had concerned with the cold war period and the nature and content of the triangular strategic relations and strived to map out the future direction of the relations among the three nations. (Rasgotra, 2007; Frankel & Harding, 2004; Garver, 2001). The rest of the studies had focused on the post-cold war period strategic relations among the three states. The studies that concerned with strategic relations in the post-cold war period had significantly shared the major trust of realist school by way of emphasizing the anarchy of international system and the need of strengthening of one's position to survive in the international system in terms of economic and military power.

This article also had focused on the power relations of US, China and India by employing the realist conceptual construct of strategic triangle to comprehend power relations among the three states and bring out the insufficiency of the concept to understand one of major cluster of power rivalry in the international system where major powers of foregone era had become fast evaporating. The above emphasis marked the departure point of this study from rest of the previous ones.

The studies that dealt with post-cold war period relations among the three nations had focused on the conflicting issues such as containing China or India in the new world order characterized by many powers (Hayes, 2013; McDaniel, 2012; Tellis, 2011). Some others had focused on possibilities of cooperation in the sphere of economic and scientific collaboration and prevention of terrorism while maintaining the ambition of strengthening military power to contain rest of the powers in the international system (Raja Mohan, 2011; Jha, 2010; Holslag, 2010). The above needed to be contextualized within the possibility of China and India becoming the great power as economists had predicted (Morrison, 2014; Meredith, 2008). China and India remained specific for that they had got the possibility of maintaining a market economy within domestic territory itself for they had got the resource of a huge population (Dahlman, 2011; Eichengreen et al., 2010). This market potential and the need of new market and the desire for geospatial supremacy had resulted in shifting of US focus to the Asia-Pacific Region through Back to Asia Policy (Paal, 2012:6-14). Meanwhile, the evolving of Indian and Chinese foreign policy substantiated the fact that both of the countries had engaged in building new alliance in Asia-Pacific region with the purpose of containing the power and influence of each other for they had been still following the realist precepts in international relations (Heberer, 2014; Andersen, 2001). However, one can also conceive an idea of cooperation among China and India with the rest of the nations as signified through Shanghai Cooperation Organization and BRICS Development Bank

(Cabestan, 2013; Brutsch & Papa, 2013). The Chinese "21<sup>st</sup> Century Maritime Silk Road" policy had designed to convey the message to the Asian Nations that Chinese Development is beneficial to them too (Koh, 2015; Marantidou, 2014). Look East policy of India revealed her ambition to build relations with traditional rivals of China (Haokip, 2011; Rajendram, 2014). The new developments required the attention to pivot position of triangular relations among super power and two great powers. However, the literature had paid little attention to the possibility of shifting the pivot role of US in the years to come or pivotless triangular relations among the three states in the new world order characterized by multipolar power relations. The objective of this study was to map the content of relationship among US, China and India through a historical perspective. Consequently, an attempt was made to predict the possible direction of this triangular relations and motives for such relations. Therefore, this paper briefly explored the U.S.-China-India triangular relationship during the cold war before analyzing how their relations have evolved in the post-cold war period to showcase that the relationship among these three powers would remain in a flux with the possibility of the alignment of two of these powers against the interest of the third. It is started with a brief discussion of the strategic triangle in international relation studies. The article proceeded to explore India-U.S., Sino-U.S. and India-China Relations. Next, factors that contribute to triangular relations among the three had been explored. After examining contributory factors for the present strategic triangular relations, the new developments that have been taking place in the international system had been explored. In the final section of the article, an attempt was made to plausibly predict the possible world order in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and it was concluded that the relations that China and India developed with the rest of the world would replace pivot U.S. and future relations among great powers would be pivotless one by nature.

### Strategic Triangle in International Studies

The concept of triangular relations had been used to study Great power behavior in the world system characterized by bipolar world order during cold war period. The conceptual constructs helped focus on strategic nature of relations among three great powers where each attempts at overriding and playing others for its own gains. The most powerful played the pivot role in a triangular power game. The concept is a historical-analytical construct to study the big power relations (Zha, 2001:117). The concept of power triangle has its origins in Sociology and Social Psychology (Chatterjee, 2011:77). The concept identified three major players and consisted of one pivot player and two wing players (Dittmer 1981:485-516). The pivot is the most powerful player in

strategic triangle. In theory, positions in a strategic triangle can be ascertained by observing the nature of the three bilateral relations. These relations might be either in a state of amity or enmity (Mao, 2002). According to Henry Kissinger, the most advantageous position in the strategic triangle is the pivot role, which maintains amity with the two other players (the wings), while pitting them against each other (Wu 1996:28). The pivot may skillfully keep a delicate balance between its relations with the two wings deriving maximum benefits from them as the two are in a rivalry to outbid each other (Ibid: 28). The two amities that a pivot maintains with the wings are necessary for the change of positive values that will benefit the pivot. The negative relations between the wings are also indispensable, for they exclude the possibility that the wings may collude against the pivot, and provide an incentive for the wings to woo the pivot in a way that the latter can gain asymmetric profits from its suitors. In order to gain maximum concessions from one wing, it is necessary for the pivot to arouse a certain degree of jealousy, or panic, in it by tilting towards the other wing (Wu 1996:28). Lowell Dittmer had explained the strategic triangle as some sort of a transactional game among three players from a rational choice perspective (Chatterjee, 2011:77). In addition, Dittmer had developed the three typology of the strategic triangles. However, in the context of aspirations pursued by China and India, the India-China-United States strategic triangle cannot be absolutely identified with any of these patterns. During the cold war era, the bipolar relationship was often talk about, and so was the strategic triangle relationship, namely the strategic relationship among the United States, the Soviet Union and China (Segal 1980:490). This strategic triangle is called 'Great Triangle'. Therefore, these three players stood-out as the leading political and military players in the international system. The big triangular relations among China, the Soviet Union and the United States were the most dominant factor in international relations in the cold war era. Thus, it was widely accepted that the interactions among China, the Soviet Union and the United States were to be comprehended and defined in a triangular terms in the cold war era.

The end of cold war period marked the increasing the complexity of Asian politics as there emerged variances of variable of triangular relationship: including China-U.S.-Russia or China-Japan-U.S. or China-Russia-India or India-China-Pakistan (Chatterjee, 2011:75). But the rise of China and India marked a significant difference in international politics for the constant interactions among India, China and the United States had acquired global repercussion. Consequently, the strategic interactions among these three countries occupied the center stage of intense analysis by interested observers. The new development needed to be comprehended in the context of post-cold war security calculations of the three nations

under study. One authority had observed two defining characteristic of the security environment in the Asia-Pacific region after the end of cold war (McDaniel, 2012). First, the United States had become only superpower in the contemporary world order. U.S. remained the most important external power in Asia and has been playing a key role in Asian security. Secondly, old rivals, China and India had emerged as strong regional powers, as evidenced by impressive economic growth, the development of nuclear arsenals and demonstrated ambitions for influence in the Asia-Pacific regions (Ibid.).

#### India-U.S. relations

The development in Indo-U.S. relations had been the starkest diplomatic feature of India's rise. Mohan Malik had observed that the U.S. has tilted toward India in order to balance China's rise and stagnation in Japan in order to create a stable balance of power (Malik, 2011:377). It is an apparently odd coupling given India's cold war relationship with the Soviet Union and the U.S. cold war relationship with China (Karl, 2012:309). Yet as a prosperous and ever more powerful democratic nation, India remained a natural regional partner for the United States.

During the 1950s, India-U.S. relations drifted into a state of estrangement (Rajamony, 2002). Indian foreign policy was characterized by the doctrine of non-alignment during that period. The relations between U.S. and India were largely determined by Pakistan Factor and India-Soviet relations during the period starting from 1960s to 1970s. The United States veered towards Pakistan while the former Soviet Union offered support to India. During the Indo-Pakistan war in 1971, India-U.S. relations setback into the bottom. The United States sent its Seventh Fleet into the Bay of Bengal and build-up coalition between the United States, China and Pakistan against India (Garver, 2002). The relations during the period starting from mid-1970s to the 1990 were largely determined by Soviet factor.

The end of the cold war, the collapse of the former Soviet Union and the launching of an economic liberalization program in India in the early nineties ushered in a new era of the U.S.-India relationship. The conduct of nuclear test and build-up nuclear arsenal by India in May 1998 led to yet another setback in the relationship (Cohen, 2000). The United States joined hands with China in leading international opinion against India and the United States further went on to impose sanctions against India. After the Indian nuclear test in 1998, Nuclear non-proliferation has largely determined the Indo-U.S. bilateral relationship for India had always been a vociferous critic of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) regime which divided the world into nuclear-haves and have-nots (Chatterjee, 2011:78).

The visit of the U.S. President Bill Clinton to India in March 2000 marked a major change in U.S. foreign policy (Symonds, 2000). By the time, United States accepted that India as the largest democracy in the world and a potential economic partner which was largely facilitated by liberal global economic order. The United States developed a comprehensive and institutionalized relationship with India, including economic ties, political dialogue and military exchanges. From the beginning of Twenty-First Century, for the bilateral cooperation between the United States and India, relations have been extended to diplomatic collaboration, military relations, counter-terrorism cooperation and public diplomacy.

The United States and India had started strategic dialogue, including on global security issues, India quest for permanent United Nations Security Council membership, future defense cooperation, trade and space-related collaboration (Feigenbaum, 2010). The dialogues have covered fields such as energy security matters, the economic interactions and requires high-level state and private sector participation in order to increased U.S.-Indian economic engagement (Mohan 2010:140-141). The common threat of terrorism compelled both countries for cooperation. The September 11, 2001 attack and war on terrorism that followed the tragic event provided a chance for the U.S. and India to closer strategic cooperation (Cohen, 2000). It has become a turning point in the Indo-U.S. security relationship.

The Indo-U.S. defense agreement signed in Washington on June 28, 2005 between the Defense Ministers of two countries (Rajghatta, 2005). To achieve this agreement, India seeks U.S. support to join the Security Council as a permanent member and also to acquire high technology from the United States, including military technology and civilian nuclear energy. The implementation of this agreement between U.S. and India on October 10, 2008 marked turning point in the history of their bilateral relations (Ministry of External Affairs, India, 2013).

The U.S.-India relationship has been most militarily visible in the Indian Ocean Region and the developing maritime relationship suits India's desire to play a lead role in the region (Mohan 2009:1-6). An increased regional naval presence became important, if India to press its regional leadership credentials and military power, particularly given the string of Chinese maritime refueling bases spread across the Indian Ocean Littoral Region, including Pakistan (Marantidou, 2014: 6-7). India had concerned that this "string of pearls" is part of a Chinese containment strategy aimed at nullifying its regional power ambitions and regard them as one of the most significant threats to its maritime security capability in the region (Ali 2013:18). However, the extent to which the United States had supported to India and U.S. interest also had in encouraging India to counter China

to establish a new balance of power in Asia that would better serve U.S. interests. Finally, United States effort to develop a new strategic partnership with India, first initiated by President George W Bush and continued by President Barack Obama, thus constituted a quintessentially realist solution to a predicament engendered by a long-standing liberal internationalist policy (Tellis, 2005).

### Sino-U.S. relations

The relationship between US and China had been viewed as the most important one in the twenty first century where United States continued to be the world super power while China has being the world rising power (Nye 2009:29-30). China first established diplomatic relations in the 19<sup>th</sup> century under the Qing dynasty and maintained a healthy relationship with United States, being a close ally on the U.S. during the World War 11 (Dreyer 2008:591). However, the advent of communism in 1949 in China saw the disintegration of Sino-American relations during which the United States chose to recognize the Republic of China on Taiwan as the legitimate Government of China cutting off all diplomatic relations with the PRC (Kissinger 2011:i-ii). However, Sino-American tensions lessened in the 1970s following the Sino-Soviet rift of late 1960s opening up of China by the efforts of Nixon-Kissinger mission. The fundamentally changed bilateral relationship between the two countries has been managed since President Nixon's historic 1972 visit to China (Ibid: i-ii). Deng Xiaoping had taken steps to strengthen the relations between the two countries, marking a historic turning point in the bilateral relations. 1979 marked a new era in Sino-American relations. However, bilateral relations over the past three decades have been volatile and could be largely characterized as one of mistrust (Wang 2009:41-44). Event such as the 1979 Taiwan Relations Act, 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre and 1999 Belgrade bombings, resulted in a volatile relationship. However, with the end of the cold war, the strategic importance of the Sino-U.S. relationship was further strengthened and the great purpose of global peace and stability was undertaken by the Clinton Administration (Chatterjee, 2011:82). The U.S. administration specifically sought to revitalize relations with China through closer economic cooperation by encouraging China's entry into the World Trade Organization (WTO) and other global conventions.

The Bush administration's China policy has taken a significant departure from that of his predecessor (Ibid: 82). During the 2000 presidential campaign on several occasions characterized China as a 'strategic competitor' and future challenge to critical U.S. interests in the Asia-Pacific region (Ibid:82). According to Condoleezza Rice, United States Secretary of State emphasized that the

relationship between the United States and China is 'complex' with areas of divergent opinions like human rights and religious freedom particularly related to Tibet, Taiwanese independence, military build-up and arms transfers to Iran and Pakistan and favorable balance of trades towards China (Department of State, U.S., 2005). However, both the China and United States have pursued cooperate strategies on issues like nuclear non-proliferation in the Korean peninsula, counter-terrorism measures and an active economic engagement despite its complications (Ibid.). Obama Administration concerned that a rising China poses challenges to the U.S. economy and to U.S. global leadership. In 2012, the Obama Administration announced that the policy of strategic rebalancing to the Asia-Pacific (Lawrence 2013:6-7). The United States by seeking closer economic and military ties in the region is improving relations with established markets, while also acting as a check against growing Chinese power. In the Pacific Region, increasing U.S. presence has been welcomed given that many countries in the Pacific Ocean feel like China is acting as the dominant hegemon as displayed through its action over the Senkaku/Diaoyudao Islands and its claims to other maritime territory (McDaniel, 2012). Thus, increased U.S. attention to the area has been met with positive feedback, given the U.S.'s strength as the reigning hegemon with the world's strongest military to check China's power in the region (Ibid).

It has been observed that relationship between the United States and China is becoming increasingly contentious and zero-sum (Sun, 2013). As Thucydides prophesized the rise of one nation instills fear in others (Nye 2009:34), China's growing economic and political clout and its expansion towards West has alarmed Washington, US views China as a threat to its position and power. This fear has caused the United States to strengthen relations with China's neighbor in an attempt to contain China's power. However, Nye emphasized, power need not to be a zero-sum relationship. If China's rise remains peaceful, it promises great benefits to Chinese, its neighbors, and to Americans, being more of a positive-sum game (Ibid: 34).

### Sino-Indian relations

The Sino-Indian relationship is one of the most important bilateral relationships in world politics. According to an influential report published by the United States, National Intelligence Council, it believes that "the likely emergence of China and India as new major global players similar to the rise of Germany in 19<sup>th</sup> century and the United States in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century will transform the geo-political landscape with impacts potentially as dramatic as those of the previous two centuries" (National Intelligence Council, U.S., 2004). The rise of new great powers has

changed the relations among the major players in the international system. The world order entered a phase of strategic flux as new alignment and dynamics emerged (Nayer & Paul, 2004:150). Negotiating its relations with the existing great power and other rising power of China become a challenge for New Delhi. India itself has emerged as one of the poles in the emerging world order. According to NIC, India "will strive for a multipolar international system" (National Intelligence Council, U.S. 2008) as it emerges as great power.

After five decades of cold peace, mistrust and hostility since the Sino-Indian border clashes in 1962, the demands of real politik and pragmatism in policy-making are transforming one of Asia's most important relationship between India and China (Chatterjee 2011:84). Both countries are two largest developing countries in the world, have a commonality of history, culture, economy and social characteristic, despite certain irreconcilable differences. China is a big power in East Asia while India is a big power in South Asia. Each enjoys advantageous and influence in their respective regions. In spite of sharing a glorious civilizational past and having never fought a single war until their emergence as modern states, security competition between India and China is inevitable as their economies grows (Karackattu, 2013). However, the positive note is that this security competition does not have to be conflictual. The contemporary picture in India-China relations today is that both nations have attempted to put the past behind and forge new relationship based on the emerging global strategic realities (Arif, 2013:129). Trade and economic ties have grown exponentially in the last two decades and leaders of both countries have expressed determination to find solutions to the China-India border dispute which have distorted relations in the past (Tellis, 2004:172).

India-China relations had undergone dramatic changes over the past six decades, ranging from the 1950s with a deep hostility in the 1960s and 1970s to a rapprochement in the 1980s and readjustment since the demise of Soviet Union (Arif, 2013:129). The post-cold war era has offered enormous opportunities to India and China to move in the direction of a productive relationship (Ibid: 129). Both countries had realized the imperative need for cooperation in diverse areas, especially in the trade and economic domains. The economic development of China and India had necessitated United States cooperation and support. The huge market potentials of the two big Asian countries had become a necessity for US in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (Ross, 2012: 70-82). Therefore, the U.S. could be a positive factor for Sino-Indian relations and if it tried to promote regional stability in South Asia and help China and India economic modernization.

The end of the cold war gave a new dimension to Sino-Indian relationship when the peace process in border dispute (Holslag, 2010:129). The Chinese Prime Minister

Li Peng visit to India in 1991 and The Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao visit to China in 1993, has resulted in the Peace and Tranquility Agreement which intended to reach mutually agreeable solution to the Sino-Indian border dispute (Jain, 2004: 253-269). In addition, the border dispute was addressed through a series of meetings of the China-India Joint Working Group, which began its first meeting in July 1989 (Sidhu & Yuan, 2003:24). In 1996, Chinese President Jiang Zemin visit to New Delhi resulted in partial demilitarization agreement and Sino-Indian rapprochement was further developed to find solution for border dispute (Shirk 2004:81).

However, the most important field for bilateral cooperation between China and India will be economic and trade (Syed & Wash, 2012). It is in this context, that both the states have made a mutual decision to set aside fighting about their border while the two countries develop their economies and enter world market. Being the two largest and fastest growing economies with expanding markets in the world. It is projected that the Sino-Indian bilateral trade would be the world's largest trading partnership sometime between 2010 and 2020 (Singh, 2013). The gradual and steady rise of Sino-Indian trade can be discerned from the fact that in 1991 to present (Ibid). Thus, it becomes clear that since the last two decades, Sino-Indian trade has continuously increased and in future also, this pace of increase in Sino-Indian trade is expected to continue. India's strength lies in information technology, software engineering, management and financial services and China is strong in hardware, manufacturing construction and engineering (Karackattu, 2013). Therefore, there is greater scope in future for collaboration and cooperation from each other's strong point.

Besides the above mentioned fields, there are other areas as well as both China and India could cooperate in future, for example in the field of science and technology (Satapathy, 2013). Both states had made tremendous progress and cooperation in this field with a view of reducing their technological dependence on the developed countries to a great extent. In this context, India and China had been encouraged to cooperate in the fields like computer software, pharmaceuticals, and peaceful application of nuclear energy, hydro-electricity generation and in a number of other fields.

A stable Sino-Indian relationship required the effective management of the delicate China-India-Pakistan triangle (Malik, 2003:35-50). India remained suspicious of the Sino-Pakistan relationship and their security ties, including the Chinese decision to continue supplies of military equipment to Pakistan reinforcing the possibility of strategic encirclement of India (Tellis, 1997). India continued to regard Pakistan as the principal external factor in its relations with China while China had been attentive to the India-U.S. strategic partnership and its

implications for its relations with India on the other hand. Despite remarkable improvements in bilateral relations in recent years, serious differences continued including the unresolved boundary issues, Tibet and Sino-Pakistan nexus.

Thus, on the whole it can be stated that the cooperation between China and India in future at the bilateral and international level would continue in those field or areas where there are convergence of interests and which will serve their respective national interest. The very fact had contributed, despite their many disputes, to avoid overt rivalry and open conflict, but the misperceptions, distrust, suspicion and hostility towards each other had. Finally, the evolving Sino-Indian relationship can be described as competition at some levels and cooperation on others.

### **Factors Contributing to China, India and United States Cooperation**

The significance of triangular relationship among China, India and United States had increased and evolved into a distinctive pattern of interaction after the post-cold war period (Garver, 2002). Further the relations among the three states become increasingly distinct as the 1990s progressed and by 2001 when the World Trade Centre and Pentagon were targeted by Al-Qaida. The relations were quite strong by the early years of 2000. Thus the common threat posed by terrorism had open an avenue for the three powers to discuss matters of strategic importance (Chatterjee, 2011:74).

It also be noted that emerging China-India-U.S. triangular relationship had the likelihood of remaining in a state of flux for the foreseeable future. The very same fact had compelled them willing or unwilling cooperation. Aligning of U.S. with two of these powers had signaled a distinct possibility.

The possibility of continuing this distinct possibility had been already substantiated by the development among the three states. For example, in July 1998, the U.S. and China has aligned in response to India's nuclear tests (Hu, 1999:40-68). At the same time, New Delhi believed that it was acceptable for the U.S. India having strategic advantage in the Chinese "areas of influence" (Friedman, 1998). Similarly given their status as large developing countries, India and China put up united front against the United States and the Developed World at the Copenhagen Climate Conference in 2009 (Yan, 2010). Finally the Chinese side perceived the Indo-U.S. Civilian Nuclear Agreement that was negotiated during 2006-8 as a part of their strategy of containing the rise of China (Ruisheng, 2008:20-40).

It seemed that China remained the weakest link in this triangular relationship for there are no major source of bilateral disputes in the U.S.-India relationship. The issues such as the status of Taiwan, Chinese military

modernization, its political system, human rights and trade imbalance and currency manipulation had beset the U.S.-China relationship (Kissinger 2012:45). Similarly, Sino-Indian relationship has been plagued by issues like border dispute, the Sino-Pakistani strategic and military relationship, Tibet and China's relation with India's South Asian neighbors as well as Sino-Myanmar relations (Gojree, 2013:48). The recent development aid politics pursued by China around India's neighbors could be read out as a strategy to enhance its position in these triangular relations.

### China, India and New World Development

There are independent initiatives taken by China and India that had gone beyond parameters of triangular strategic relations. The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) came into being as a reaction to US presence in former Soviet Republics of Central Asia and curb rising Islamic radicalism that was perceived to be a common threat to Russia and China (Huasheng 2013:436-437). Since its inception, the SCO has also included a growing number of observers and dialogue partners. Later, India also had joined observer in 2004 (Cabestan, 2013:423).

Chinese Development had been perceived by many South Asian Smaller States as beneficial to them. China had already extended its supportive hands to build Regional Container Ports in Hambantota and Colombo in Sri Lanka and Gwadar in Pakistan (Marantidou, 2014:12-13). Later, the Pak-China Economic Corridor (PCEC) is mentioned as an integral element in realizing the potential of regional connectivity and trade with the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) (Khan, 2014-15:45). The policy package of good governance prescribed by US led world hegemonic financial institutions had made many of the small states closer to China than to India in the South Asian Region party for the fear of big neighbour syndrome. The China had cooperated in the establishment Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) (Hewitt, 2015). It had already attracted 51 Countries. The bank was a reaction to the banking system of World Bank and Asian Development bank where U.S. or its allies had got the majority of votes in decision making. The latest addition to the world monetary and banking system had been the BRICS New Development Bank which had been established as alternative to the existing American and European dominated World Bank and International Monetary Fund (Humphrey, 2015). The significance of this new bank had been the its origin in the developing world and more and more cooperation among developing world as exemplified by giving chairmanship to India while China was the main contributor to the Bank (The Times of India, 2015). The economic growth and development process

had already took off and it is predicted that the economies of the Western countries including US would be displaced from the Centre stage to backyard by New emerging economies of China, India, Brazil, Russia and South Africa. The above developments also provided opportunities for small countries to gamble nations that strived to become the hegemonic power in the region of influence and approximate areas (Ferdinand 2014: 376-391). The fast developing economies of China and India required the assurance of ready availability of energy sources and the security of the same. The politics of who is right or wrong pursued by Religious Fundamentalist forces as well as the pirates had posed a serious threat for China and India which required greater and greater cooperation in surveillance and energy and maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region.

The cumulative effect of the process has led to greater understanding and cooperation among emerging world powers. They had already signaled possibility of surpassing US and Western Partners of her including Japan in terms of economy. The gradual economic progress also resulted in ambitious goals of nations to have greater national pride and honour through military development and sophistications of military technology. China and India already had taken steps in this direction. The gradual decline of economic power on the part of U.S. and other associated problems such as aging population etc., had blocked further potential of economic prosperity on the part of U.S. and its Western Partners.

### CONCLUSION

The collapse of Soviet Union and end of cold war marked a new world order. The end of cold war also marked the beginning of new type of rivalries and they had posed new threat to world order largely promoted by religious terrorist groups. The attack on World Trade Centre and Pentagon in 2001 had compelled U.S. China and India to cooperate on many account. The scholars that worked on this new development pointed the strategic relations as one of the important one in post-cold war order. They had maintained US as the most important or pivot player for they still maintained U.S. as the superpower. The reasons for giving prominence to relations of U.S. China and India in international affairs was the rising power of the former two states in a multipolar world order. They also observed a discernable pro-American fit in India's foreign policy in recent years. However, this assumption is questionable for India had shown wiliness to cooperate with China on many fronts. China and India had taken steps to resolve many confrontational issues in recent past. The recent developments in the field of economic cooperation and many other areas signified going beyond the orbit of American Dictation by India. The economic prosperity of India and China is beneficial for the small

states in the region and they had shown the playing the card of either for their benefits and that same fact resulted in resolving issues between China and India. The economic prosperity of the two nations had resulted in changes in U.S. foreign policy as exemplified strategic rebalancing to Asia and Pacific under Obama administration. Both China and India had been very active in challenging world financial system by way of establishing alternative World Bank and I.M.F. under the BRICS initiative. In this context, it is agreeable to Blackwill, when he says there seems to be little possibility that India would join any U.S.-led groupings to contain the rise of China (2001). India will prefer to deal with a rising on its own terms and as an independent pole in the emerging world order. India will also cooperate with China, at times against the interests of the U.S. But Sino-Indian cooperation is likely to remain opportunistic in the sense that these two rising powers will cooperate tactically when the international system present them with certain avenue for cooperation. This cooperation will not emerge as a part of Chinese or Indian Grand Strategy as long as the core bilateral differences related to their unmarked border, Tibet and Sino-Pakistan relations persist. By contrast, close cooperation with U.S. is an essential feature of the Chinese and Indian strategies to facilitate their ascent in the early 21<sup>st</sup> century. The gradual decline of American economy and rising of Chinese, Indian and other economies requires new world order. It is implied that declining of U.S. as the world super power meant pivot- less relations. The conceptual constructs such as strategic triangle are not enough to understand the new world order characterized by multipolar places of power and which do not behave as realist actors alone in dealing with the rest of the world.

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