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ENERGY RICHNESS OF CENTRAL ASIA AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR PAKISTAN

**FIRDOUS M^{1*}, RAHIM N², JAVEED M³, SONAIL M⁴, KHATTAK IK⁴, KHAN N⁴, ARIF
S⁴ AND IQBAL H⁵**

¹PhD Scholar, Qurtuba University of Science & Information Technology, Peshawar

²Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science & IR, Qurtuba University of Science & Information Technology, Peshawar

³PhD Scholar, Qurtuba University of Science & Information Technology, Peshawar

⁴Department of Economics Kohat University of Science & Technology, Kust-26000, Kohat, KP, Pakistan

⁵M.Phil English Literature, Certified Teacher Government High School Teri, Karak, KP, Pakistan

***Corresponding Author: Malik Firdous, PhD Scholar, Qurtuba University of science & information technology, Peshawar, Email: malikfirdous92@gmail.com**

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ABSTRACT

The international political scenario keeps the World politics dynamic and forces the states to adjust their strategies. The power axis of global players has transformed now and supremacy over the energy resources has become significant for every state. The reserves of Central Asia (CA) are very crucial which has lime light the strategic importance of this region. It is now a very complex game which involved not only great powers but its neighbors too. Energy issues in China, USA, Russia; and the whole of Asia and Europe have augmented the interests of great powers in CA. Great power rivalry has impact on Pakistan's position to pursue its objectives. The purpose of the paper is to explore the hydrocarbon potentials of Central Asian Republics (CARs) and to look opportunities for Pakistan. The paper provides energy richness of the area, its future progress but linked with its progress and development. It also covers the role played by

the Global players in creating troubles for these states in forging ties with regional states. The paper finds that CARs future prosperity depends on peace and development of the infrastructure. It also covers the role played by the big powers in creating obstacles for the CARs in strengthening ties with Pakistan and their neighbors. The article will cover the energy richness of the region; that how Pakistan is affecting in making relations with these states will be discussed. In the paper other players' interests will be mentioned but major power's interests in CA, New Great Game, and regional conflicts will not be broadly discussed. The options for Pakistan's development through some proposed projects have been covered, but all the projects have not given full coverage. However the importance of Gawader port is highlighted in the last section of the paper. The study is descriptive where the data is analyzed from secondary sources like books, journal, articles and reports etc. where the energy resources are shown through tables and maps.

Keywords: Central Asia, Energy Richness of Central Asia, Opportunities for Pakistan

INTRODUCTION

Central Asia consists of five former-Soviet republics: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. Its population is about 64.7 million and having an area of about four million square kilometers (Werner, 2012). In administrative and political terms it comprised four republics namely Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan which corresponds to the *Transoxiana* or 'Ma Wara 'un-Nahr' in Arabic means 'beyond the river' and in other words the basin of two *darya* (sea or river) *Amu Darya* and *Sir Darya*. Due to interconnectedness Kazakhstan is included and Azerbaijan cannot be left alone due to its geo-strategic space. The collapse of USSR and the emergence of CARs have changed the geo-

strategic environment of the area (Roy, 2000). The current definition of Central Asia, where the Republics that once Soviet part was developed in the mid-twentieth century, as a need to distinguish these five CARs. Shortly after independence, specifically in 1993, "this definition has been officially recognized by the CARs, as well as by the international community" (Duarte, n.d.).

The area had been a battleground for influence since 19th century. A rivalry between the Russian Empire and Great Britain popularly called 'Old Great Game' to dominate the region. Rudyard Kipling (1865-1937) the first Englishman fictionalized it in, *Kim* (1901) a masterpiece novel on Anglo-India. *Kim* glorifies 19th-century British politics, with the *Great Game* as its central

theme. The Russians called this ‘*Great Game*’ as *Tournament of Shadows*’ or ‘*Bolshya Igra*’, a war of diplomacy and intelligence, and a strategy to strengthen control in Asia (Kaye, 1889).

The renewed geo-strategic competition in CA with more and new players has been termed as ‘New Great Game’ by several analysts. The major players Russia, China and United States are forcing the developments in their favor and set their policies to access the markets. The areas tremendous hydrocarbons reserves have great attraction for regional players like Russia, China, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India and Turkey and remote players USA and EU. The share of CA in the world energy markets is significant and consider by various to be the next oil and gas frontier. The areas considerable energy assets, shared with its unique political status emerging from the disintegration of the former Soviet Union, have limelight these states on the surface (Javaid & Rashid, 2015).

Pakistan links with CA through common history, tradition, and culture, and it was the first country to recognize all the five CARs. Pakistan shaped its politico-economic and strategic policies towards these states for the advancement of its objectives. Since the collapse of Soviet Union the region became

important for Pakistan that it urged to assist these landlocked states through access route. They have ambitious plan to embark on energy, trade, transportation and economic relations, but this has been challenged by trouble in Afghanistan and war against terrorism. The law and order situations in Baluchistan and FATA and tribal areas became a setback to the proposed plans.

Gwader a strategically important port located on the Gulf of Oman and close to Strait of Hormuz is situated in Baluchistan, Pakistan have been developed by China. It is part of Chinese plan is based on the ‘One Belt One Road’ (OBOR) vision. *Gwadar* is strategically located between oil rich but landlocked CA and oil rich Middle East. China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a strategic plan to bypass the US occupied unstable, insecure Afghanistan in access to Central Asia. CPEC adds an economic aspect to the historically strategic and nuclear assistance and relations between Pakistan and China. The inner crescent i.e. Eurasia and Heartland i.e. Central Asia are up for grabs by OBOR and CPEC (Khan, 2016). At present Pakistan is facing severe problem of its energy crisis for which it needs a regional level requirement to solve it.

Literature Review

Since the collapse of Soviet Union and emergence of Central Asian states in 1991, the region's strategic significance has been reassessed constantly. A lot has been talked about the significance of Central Asia in terms of socio-cultural notions, such as the location of the region between different civilizations such as Islamic South, Christian North and Buddhist East. The evaluation in terms of state - power relations has been the encirclement of Central Asia by significant powers like Russia, China, India, Pakistan and Iran, four of which are nuclear states. However, the most obvious significance of Central Asia seems to be its wealthy natural wealth and its potential to turn into a cause of international instability (Irnazarov, 2005).

(Kemp & Harkavy, 1997) comprehensively discusses the strategic geography which covers all dimensions of geography. It includes both physical and human geography, where political, economic and military geography are also included. This theory operates on three levels which cover Interests, Capabilities and Commitments. With regard to interests of regional powers in Central Asia, it is the main aspect of their involvement in the region. Apart from all other players Pakistan has its own interest, that it would become

more important on the international political arena, if pipelines pass through its territory. Capabilities of states involved are different; some are at front foot where as some on back foot. Commitments are different from each other and majority has allied with one another to get the benefits.

German journalist Lutz Kleveman in his book *New Great Game: Blood and Oil in Central Asia* describes that Caspian Sea contains the world's biggest untapped energy resources and, since, not all energy deposits are discovered yet, there is a range of approximate amount of oil and gas from 50 to 110 billion barrels (bb) of oil, and from 170 to 463 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. The U.S. Department of Energy comfortably assumes a 50 percent probability of a total of 243 bb of oil reserves. Both Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan alone could sit on more than 130 bb of oil, more than three times the US' own reserves. More recently in 2000 the Kashgan oil field which discovered at Kazakh coast ranked as the five largest fields on the earth (Kleveman, 2003).

He further analysis the old great game and new great game in Central Asia with similarities and difference. He asserts that the main difference in today's Great Game is the spoils. whereas in the Victorian-era struggle, London and St. Petersburg fought over the

wealth of India and the New Great Game focuses on the Caspian energy capital, mainly oil and gas (Kleveman, 2003).

Thinking in terms of Russia as a dominant player in Eurasia, (Mankoff, 2009) expresses his views in this way. The surfacing of Russia as the principal actor in Eurasia has made European Union's (EU) dependence on the former Soviet states for its energy security increasingly challenging, a reality evident by the Russia-Ukraine gas crisis of January 2009. Its monopoly on the shipment corridor bringing Caspian energy, particularly natural gas, to the West has augmented Europe's dependence on Russia as a supplier. So energy security became a cardinal point in its policy which compels the others to shape their priorities.

(Croissant & Aras, 1999) in his book, "Oil and Geopolitics in Caspian Region" comprehensively describe the history of energy resources in the Caspian-Caucasus region in his first chapter. He beautifully portrays its look back on the history of oil development and its use in the region. Moreover it covers the pipeline politics from different angles and discusses the role played by big players along with small nations. He asserts the importance of small countries for big players like USA and

Russia, because these provide the routes to export oil to Europe.

Uzma Siraj concluded in her thesis on the topic "Oil and Gas Pipeline Politics in Central Asia", that the vast vicissitudes in geopolitical order and emergence of the new independent states in Central Asia and in Caspian region have decisive new connection of interests. An essential outcome on the fall of USSR was the start of competition of hydrocarbon reserves. Now these are bone of conflict among the states in the region and this energy politics has a connection with regional and international powers for their hegemony (uzma siraj oil Siraj, U. (2010). *Oil and Gas Pipelines Politics in Central Asia..pdf*, n.d.).

(Ahmad, 2017) in his article, "New Great Game and the CPEC in Baluchistan: Opportunities and Challenges" stresses the importance of CPEC that besides benefits it could be an affective indicator for integration. He further asserts that this project could transform the New Great Game into New Great Cooperation. He further explained the outstanding geopolitical position of Baluchistan. The tri-junction of South Asia, Central Asia and the West Asia with a vast coastline along the Indian Ocean has attracted the strategic-cum-economic

attentions vying actors of the ‘New Great Game’.

(Kavalski, 2010) explores the central Asia’s place in the world affairs that how the international politics has affected the region the role of actors so on and so forth. He highlights the importance of *Gawader* port that it is a serious challenge for Pakistan. It is an important route for sea traffic that could serve China, Afghanistan and Central Asia. Significant element of China’s policies in CA has been its considerable assistance to local governments to build transportation links and other forms of infrastructure right through CA and bind them to Chinese depots

(Asif, 2011) explains that, the turmoil in Afghanistan has affected Pakistan’s relations with the CARs. The poor law and order situation in Baluchistan and FATA, bordering Afghanistan, is challenge to its economic ventures. Competition among global powers, intended to access the energy resources of the CA region have also been a obstacle in Pakistan’s endeavors to nurture good relations with the CAs. He has also suggested that Pakistan need to devise a comprehensive policy to the CAs in order to turn constraints into chances. This can only be possible if Pakistan improves its economic, security and political situation. The author has covered both the internal and

external factors but not deeply explored the real motives of the states involved.

Oliver Roy in his book *‘The New Central Asia’* systematically covers the history of the region, Russian dominancy under a chapter ‘the Sovietisation of Central Asia’. The author has given little room to its Geo-Strategic position in one of its chapters. Here he highlighted the constraints to these states like their land-locked and Russian neo-imperialism. He presented a quiet different outlook, that these are not looking towards regional organizations like CIS or the OEC and also relations among them are cool. These are suspicious to build a regional sphere of influence under the leadership of any of the regional state or under one of themselves (Roy, 2000).

Research Questions

1. What are the constraints on the Central Asian Republics in the exploration of hydrocarbon reserves?
2. What is the current position of Pakistan’s relations with Central Asian states?
3. How both can be benefited in terms of improvement in relations?
4. What opportunities Pakistan can get from the energy rich Central Asia?

Energy Reserves of Central Asian Republics

Before going to discuss its energy potentials it is necessary to sketch its geo-strategic importance. Caspian's petroleum has central position in world politics, that access to these resources has stirred the nations, corporate sectors, revival of imperial designs and fueling of rivalries (Huma, 2014). It became a centre place of attraction for players like China, Russia and USA. It also enjoys close proximity with regional states like Pakistan, Afghanistan and India. The location and its energy potentials makes its interests among the states makes the area strategic pivot (Fatima & Zafar, 2014).

In the early twentieth century, Sir Halford Mackinder, a British geographer was the first to underline its significance and called it the 'geographical pivot of history', or 'Heartland'. In his view, the world is divided into isolated areas, which have special function. For the author, it is the "Heartland" which is the pivot to all geopolitical transformations within the 'World Island'. American political scientist Zbigniew Brzezinski also emphasized the significance

of this area in his endeavor in 1997, of the geo-strategy of the post-Cold War. Like Mackinder, Brzezinski too supports that "who dominates the Heartland, will be able to control the World Island and the planet" (Duarte, n.d.).

The 20th century is identified for the politics of nuclear weapons and information technology. Technological advancement was both a cause and caused by breakthrough of new energy capital like oil and gas. These energy resources got unparalleled importance for running the economies of industrialized world, since then the political economy of this asset has altered destinies of many nations. Having a potential of vast unexplored energy reserves and also being located in proximity to the future huge consumer markets of oil and gas, CA assumes immense importance. This energy richness of the region also attracts the attention of regional and global powers like China, Russia and USA. Due to limitation of this study the focus will be on CA, rich in hydrocarbon reserves, those are Kazakhstan Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Table 1: Oil and Natural Gas Reserves of Central Asian Countries

Countries	Oil Reserves (bbl)	Natural Gas Reserves (tcf)
Azerbaijan	7.000	31.5
Kazakhstan	30.00	45.7
Kyrgyzstan	0.040	0.02

Tajikistan	0.012	0.20
Turkmenistan	0.600	618.1
Uzbekistan	0.600	39.7
Total	38.25	735.22
% of World	2.29	11.11
World	1668.9	6614

Source: BP Statistical Review of World Energy June, 2013(www.bp.com).

James Fishelson, in his article, has estimated oil reserves of Kazakhstan at about 79 billion barrels. Similarly, John Foster in his article has found that Turkmenistan has the world’s fourth largest reserves of natural gas at 7.94 trillion cubic meters (tcm), exceeded only by Russia, Iran and Qatar. Differences in these figures never undervalue the potential of CAs’ energy reserves. If one compete ourselves to the least values of existing reserves i.e. that of BP Statistical Review of June 2013, even then the value of CA reserves is important. According to this estimate, Kazakhstan has 12th largest oil reserves in the world with eternal capability

of 47 years. As far as natural gas reserves are concerned, Turkmenistan, and Kazakhstan contain 4th, 19th largest reserves in the world, with a lasting capacity of 100, and 65 years respectively (See Table 1).

CA owes its geo-political significance due to hydrocarbon resources, which largely remain untapped so far and the Caspian Sea is a hub of hydrocarbons. The states’ wealth including precious mineral resources like gold, copper, and an unlimited supply of cotton, in addition to oil and gas deposits, have attracted the nations. The bar chart below shows the amount of reserves and current production projections.

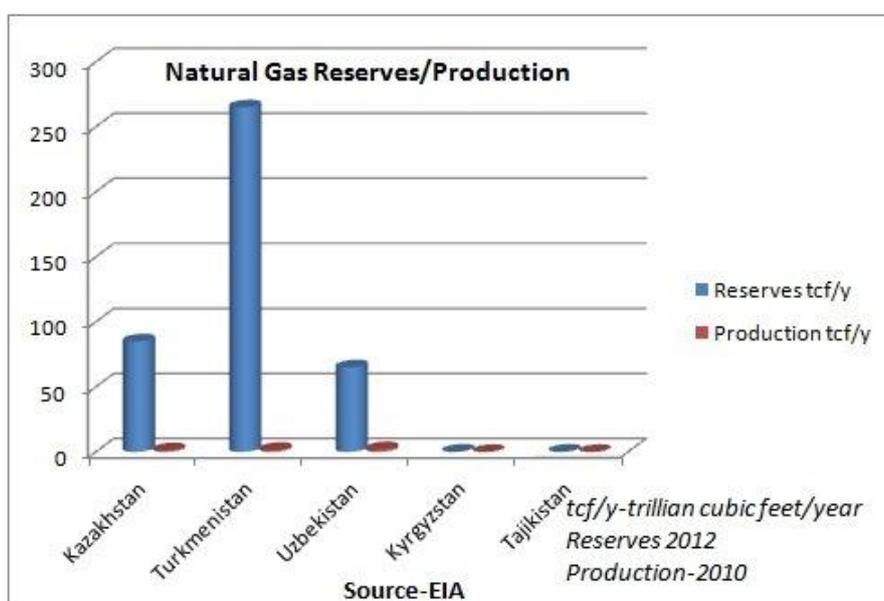


Figure 1:

Some chief oil and gas pipeline projects of the CARs are as:

- I. Russian Gazprom's Alta pipeline from Russia to China which will strengthen ties with SCO;
- II. Trans Caspian Gas pipeline from Turkmenistan to Azerbaijan would extend more to the Eastern European countries and it will diminish the Russian influence;
- III. Kazakhstan-China oil pipeline has been completed;
- IV. Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) oil pipeline, covering 1768 Km with a maximum discharge capacity of 1 million barrels a day;
- V. Trans Asian Gas pipeline, it will carry natural gas from Turkmenistan to China by expending US\$6.7 billion (Jamil, n.d.).

The region's oil reserves amounted to 5.88 billion tones, representing 2.5% of the global oil reserves. Top countries in oil reserves are Kazakhstan (3,931.8 mt), Azerbaijan (958.9 mt), India (763.5 mt), Turkmenistan (82.2 mt), Uzbekistan (81.4 mt) and Pakistan (50 mt). Top producing countries are Kazakhstan (79.3 mt), Azerbaijan (41.7 mt), India (41.2 mt) and Turkmenistan (12.7 mt) (Global, 2016).

CA is situated at very important strategic point of Europe, South Asia and East Asia; the regions in search of fossil fuels. Due to geographical proximity these regions have an attraction for approaching energy deposits with an advantage of short distance for transportation. That's why, China, India, and Pakistan hold a very significant position. They are in need of these resources the coming two decades, but also are at short distance to the reserves of Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan (Abbasi, 2013). China is now a biggest investor in CA, according to Chinese National Oil and Gas Corporation the total volume of gas delivered to China through Central Asia-China gas pipelines reached 200bcm as of November 29, 2017 (Aliyeva, 2019).

Opportunities for Pakistan

Pakistan economy's future links with the development of cordial relations with the CARs. In this regard, there is a need to formulate short and long-term strategies for Pakistan. From the Oxus to the Indus the states should give access to one another for trade activities. The nearest sea port for the landlocked CARs in the Arabian Sea is *Gwadar* port. The nearest rail heads in CA are at *Kuchka* and *Tirmiz* from where passengers and goods can go south to Herat, Kandahar, and Quetta to reach out to Karachi

or *Gwadar*. The land course from *Tirmiz* across the *Salang* Pass to *Kabul*, *Jalalabad*, *Peshawar* and *Lahore* and down to *Multan* and *Gwadar* or *Karachi* is the best option. Another route is from *Tajikistan* through historical *Badakhshan* (the *Wakhan* Corridor) across the *Panj* River to *Peshawar*, *Islamabad* and *Lahore* and further to the sea port. The next route is via *KKH*; *Kashgar* to *Gilgit* and along the *Indus* right up to the sea. Northwestward, the road goes through the *Turbat* Pass and reaches *Bishkek* via *Naryn* and onward to *Almaty*. These routes open prospects for the outflow and also for inflow of global trade through the ports of *Karachi* and *Gwadar*. Pakistan provides a gateway large enough to break the isolation of Central Asia. Pakistan has the potential to become the quickest and safest channel for trade between the outside world and the states of CA (Dani, 1996).

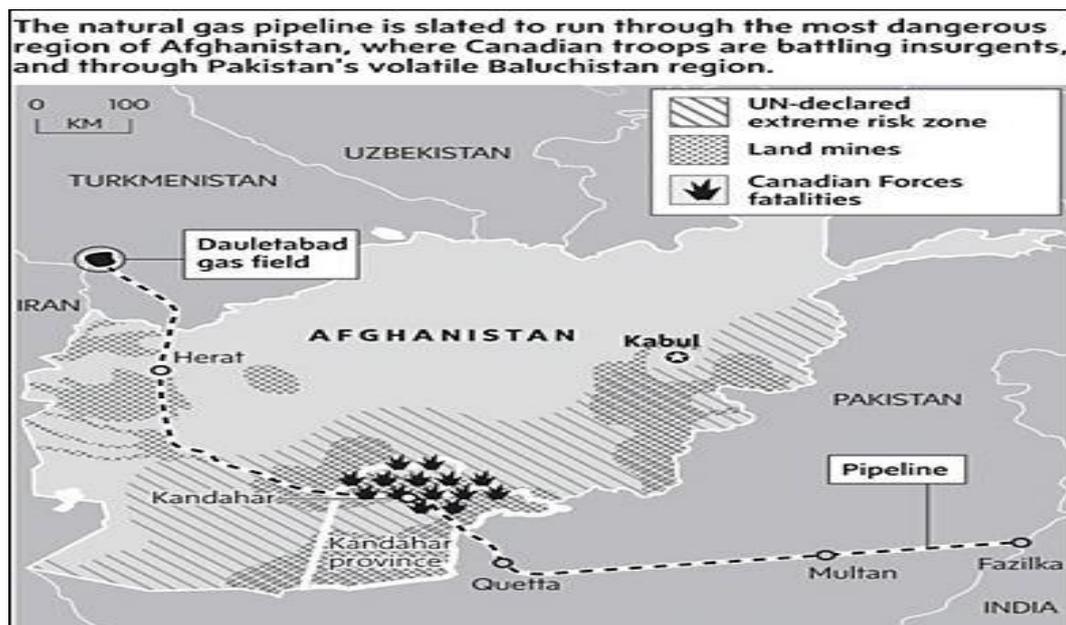
Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) Pipeline

The proposed TAPI pipeline follows an ancient trading route from Central to South Asia. With the coordination of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan signed an agreement to transport Turkmen gas to the

Pakistan via Afghanistan. In May 2007, India joined the four-party intergovernmental agreement with the ADB on the proposed TAPI pipeline. This pipeline will connect *Daulatabad* gas field in Turkmenistan to the Afghan cities of *Herat*, *Helmand* and *Kandhar* passing through *Quetta* and *Multan* to the Indian city *Fazilka*. Afghanistan since the conduit between CA and South Asia will enjoy the most profit of this project which will become major developmental project in Afghanistan. The transit fee of US \$ 160 million per year will boost the progress in the state (Foster, 2008).

Recently Pakistan and Turkmenistan signed the final version of the 'Host Government Agreement' for the this project ("The Dawn," 2019). It is a latest development in the project that was signed by Additional Secretary In-charge of the Petroleum Division Mian Asad Hayauddin and Muhammetmyrat Amanov, chief executive officer and chairman of the board of TAPI Pipeline Company Ltd, Turkmenistan. According to TAPI CEO that the pipeline construction will be completed in two-and-a-half years ("The Dawn," 2019).

Map of Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India pipeline



Source: (Fatima & Zafar, 2014)

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The present study has clearly shown a fair picture of Energy potential of CARs and their relations with Pakistan. The study consists of two parts, first part is about energy potentials of CA and second component is about its all sort of dealings with Pakistan including energy. Since CARs are landlocked and Moscow has monopoly over the flow of its crude oil to foreign markets. All these exercises allowed Russia to become a member of the Caspian Pipeline Consortium (CPC) to construct a US\$2 billion pipeline from Kazakhstan to Novorossiysk. The new pipelines could go in almost any direction. The northern routes could enhance the existing network and serve Russia's needs, western routes could serve

Europe, while southern or eastern routes could serve the Asian markets (Arvanitopoulos, 1998).

The Southern routes have benefits for Pakistan: it emanates from the Arabian Sea and passes through Pakistan or Iran and Afghanistan and terminates in the north and is further sub-divided into the Silk Route, emanating from *Gwadar* port and passing along the Indus River. It joins Karakoram Highway (KKH) to *Kashgar* in China. Pakistan Route, emanating from *Gwadar*, passes through Quetta-Kandahar or Peshawar-Kabul and terminating in northern Afghanistan. Iran Route; emanating from *Chahbahar* passes through *Zahedan* and Herat and terminating in northern Afghanistan (Jamil, n.d.).

Pakistan can have long term investment in variety of areas such as import of up to 10,000 mega watts of electricity from Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, which can meet its energy shortage and in return can provide better opportunities of investment. The industrial base of the CARs is strong and Pakistan can offer engineers as well as other related resources. It can also provide them defence equipment and in return it can import hydrocarbon to meet its requirements. Pakistan can get the maximum advantage by prudent planning to facilitate the import of oil and gas from the CARs.

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is the jewel in the crown of New Silk Route which is a 3000-km long regional trade route that passes Pakistan linking China with the resource-rich Middle East and African continent via *Gwadar* deep sea port and Karakoram Highway. The CPEC is the central part of the President Xi Jinping economic-cum-power-politics strategy of “One Belt One Road (OBOR)” through which it wants to achieve an estimated \$2.5 trillion additional annual trade with its immediate and extended neighbors over the next decade (Markey & West, 2016).

Through this corridor Pakistan can link to the Central Asian Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) which is an important

regional organization of the CARs including China, Pakistan and Afghanistan. Apart from this Pakistan has joined many other contacts and agreements with CARs. It has long been awaiting to extend its KKH to Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan as a result these could connect to the CPEC and *Gwadar* Port where Pakistan can increase its existing \$45.3 million annual trade up to \$4 billion a year (Ahmad, 2017).

Apart from its geo-strategic benefits not only for Pakistan but for the whole region, the security threats will not allow it to promise them. Security issues like insurgency in Baluchistan, Propaganda against CPEC, involvement of some foreign hands to damage its progress; an unstable situation in Afghanistan, terrorist activities and extremism in the country are some major hurdles in its way. There should be an improvement in National Action Plan and the Chinese should be taken in confidence for its progress (Umar, Taj, & Adnan, n.d.).

The region has more potential but have certain obstacles in the exploration of its hydrocarbons reserves and for the world outlook.

Firstly the region is landlocked and its resources are not easily accessible to the world energy markets. Due to this factor many investors and companies are reluctant to invest in energy sector.

Secondly the continued Russian monopoly over pipeline routes majority of oil wells is a big uncertainty for western, EU and USA oil companies.

Thirdly the major impediments for oil companies' investments and less development of hydrocarbons and electricity production are territorial disputes among CIS states, non-cooperative and unfriendly investment environment, excessive government intervention, insufficient legislative framework for investment, corruption at government and court level, inactive property protection rights, lack of infrastructure for exports and trading of energy.

The probable solutions of energy exploration, investment in energy sector of CARs and boost in the capacity building are peace, stability, good governance, Economic cooperation at ECO, SCO level, incentives for investors, resolution of the territorial disputes of states, improvement of infrastructure like road ,rail and pipelines and political will to remove the hindrances.

As for as Pakistan's relations with CARs is concerned there are several dimensions but the focus is on the existing outlook of the CARs vis-a-vis Pakistan coupled with Pakistani initiatives and responses. It has also calculated the

opportunities; and hindrances faced by Pakistan in pursuance of her strategic, political and economic goals towards the CA. The major obstacle is lack of common border for better accessibility of the region, unrest in Afghanistan and global war against terrorism. Due to the geo strategic and geo political importance of Pakistan CA cannot ignore Pakistan. The region has acquired great importance in the eyes of international and regional players in the context of US led war on terrorism. The security situation of Afghanistan is of immense significance for Pakistan relations with CARs. *Wakhan* corridor is a 16km narrowest point on the Northeastern side of Afghanistan which can connect Pakistan with Tajikistan but the adverse security situation of Afghanistan and tribal areas of Pakistan is a main hurdle to pursuit trade relation as well as the energy relations between CARs and Pakistan.

The role of China in the region is a sign of relief for Pakistan, OBOR which is a mega project and is functional, for this they are developing an economic belt along the ancient Silk Road with CA and developing its *Gwadar* port. Pakistani government is developing this link under CPEC through *Khunjrab* pass from *Kashgar* to *Gwadar* via 2700 km of road and rail linkages. This corridor will not only connect China to

Gwadar but also serve as the trade and energy corridor for CA. This port *Gwadar* is located on Gulf of Oman very close near to Persian Gulf on the East it is near to Iran almost 75 km and from Karachi it is about 460 km away. Strait of Hormuz is very close to it.

Central Asia now has two options first one is *Chahbhar* and the later is *Gwadar* port. The port of *Chahbahar* of Iran is being developed by India and it can be a possible secure route for CARs to reach the Indian Ocean. Pakistan has always portrayed itself as natural trade route for Central Asia. Pakistan's current government is moving in positively in terms of foreign economic ties. In order to get benefits from regions energy outputs of the CARs, it must rethink its foreign policy and should play its cards very successfully.

Russia, China and the US on one side and Iran, the Turkey, India and Pakistan on the other are all key players in unfolding the Central Asian panorama. The CARs are getting support from the states in their vicinity to restructure their economies and political systems alike. The coming years are crucial for the South, West and Central Asia that if peace and order is maintained then Pakistan can become a real trade and energy corridor for the region; Pakistan must

understand its proper position in the Central Asian scenario and construct strong bonds of relations and offer all sort of possible assistance. Hence, need a pragmatic policy united with bold steps is essential for thoughtful gains. Whether it is major power struggle or antagonism among the regional players, Pakistan will remain significant for the future development or progress towards the CARs.

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