

Traditional and non-Traditional Challenges to CPEC: An Analysis

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Tayaba Anwar is group leader of Traditional and non-Traditional Challenges to CPEC: An Analysis. While the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has fueled expectations, Pakistan continues to face longstanding challenges linked to the country's realpolitik trends. The China Pakistan Economic Corridor is being hailed as the fate-changing investment in Pakistan. Given the status of “distinct advantage”, CPEC is a culmination of major foreign investment projects undertaken by China in Pakistan’s infrastructure, energy, and communication sector. The corridor focuses on a 2,000-kilometer road and rail links between Western China and Pakistan. It connects Kashgar to Gwadar port in the Arabian Sea. CPEC comes under the umbrella of a larger Chinese OBOR “One Belt One Road” initiative that encompasses the population of more than 4 billion and an economic output of US\$ 21 trillion in Eurasia. Verifiably the Sino-Pakistan relationship will significantly deepen with CPEC from an economic-security point of view and can alter the geo-economic politics of South Asia. In this context, OBOR is the reflection of regional political integration, humanizing economic development, trade, up-gradation of investing in transportation and energy sectors. By connecting China with Asia, Europe, Africa, and the Middle East, OBOR aims to reshape trade and diplomacy. In this context, CPEC will open doors to trade and prosperity not only for Pakistan and China but for Iran, Afghanistan, and Central Asian Republics too. However, there are credible security threats that encompass both traditional and non-traditional in nature exists for CPEC. Making it imperative for Pakistan to adopt a more sustainable approach to mitigate the challenges. To elaborate CPEC in terms of security dilemmas and goals it’s necessary to first clarify the conception and practice of security nowadays.

