

**ПРОЕКТ КИТАЯ "ОДИН ПОЯС-ОДНА ДОРОГА" И ВОЗМОЖНОСТЬ
ФОРМИРОВАНИЯ "АЗИАТСКИЙ СОЮЗ". РЕГИОНАЛЬНАЯ
ПЕРСПЕКТИВНАЯ ПОЛИТИКА.**

Ammar Younas

*Eastern Center of Strategic Studies. Eastern University named after Mahmud
Kashgari Barskani, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan*

**CHINA'S PROJECT "ONE BELT-ONE ROAD" AND POSSIBILITY OF
FORMING AN "ASIAN UNION": A REGIONAL POLICY PROSPECTIVE**

Abstract:

European Union evolved as a result of economic cooperation. Analogues to this situation, we can see that the Chinese projects like "One Belt, One Road" and "China Pakistan Economic Corridor" are striving for cooperation between the Asian countries. This paper argues that the regional political dynamics and economic cooperation initiatives taken by the China show that there is a possibility of forming an Asian Union.

Key Words: *Silk Road, China Pakistan Economic Corridor, Asian Union, Eurasian Union*

Аннотация:

Европейский союз развился в результате экономического сотрудничества. Аналогов этой ситуации, мы можем видеть в китайских проектах как "один пояс, одна дорога" и "Китай Пакистан экономического коридора", которые стремятся к сотрудничеству между азиатскими странами. В данной статье утверждается, что региональная политическая динамика и инициативы в области экономического сотрудничества, предпринятые Китаем, показывают, что существует возможность формирования Азиатского Союза.

Ключевые слова: *Шелковый Путь, Китай Пакистан экономического коридора, Азиатский союз, Евразийский союз*

Asian Union Vs Eurasian Union

Word "Integration" refers to connecting different parts, which gives a sense that it is something which requires engineering at micro level. But if we look at the history of the evolutionary process through which European Union have evolved, it demonstrate "integration" as a Macro level process. "The European Union is set up with the aim of ending the frequent and bloody wars between neighbors, which culminated in the Second World War. As of 1950, the European Coal and Steel Community begins to unite European countries economically and politically in order to secure lasting peace."(Europe.Eu)

Asia has seen a lot of gloom, bloodshed and despair. From the Eastern borders of Asia to the Eastern borders of Europe, history is evident of kingdoms falling into rebels and individuals rising to dictators. There were changes of geographical borders and experiments of different economical systems. This is none other than what was happening in Europe. The bloodshed was less but people were still being persecuted by forced migrations, separations, economic sanctions, diversions of state budget and much more. Considering Japan as the eastern border of Asia to the Kazakhstan as western border, each country seems in a state of war or pretending to be neutral by ignoring the fact that they cannot be happy in a bad neighborhood.

Time has come, where china's "One Belt, One Road" projects provides a hope for Asian integration with a possibility of forming an Asian Union. The idea of forming an Asian Union is not a new concept. There are some similar but projects like ASEAN in East Asia and Custom Union in Central Asia are already working. Even there are some efforts being made to form a "Eurasian Union". The possibility of making an Asian Union is more likely than a Eurasian Union. There is a huge similarity between initiation of European Integration process when countries started coming close of each other considering this fact that war is not good. Similarly, densely populated Asia is realizing the fact that people does matter and wars have become practically impossible. The cooperation is the only solution and the demand of modern era.

Chinese idea of starting a project by naming it as "One Belt, One Road" which is no other than economical framework of European Union, is a practical step to connect more than 60 countries from the Asia, Africa and Europe. The main purpose of this project is to improve the economical cooperation between the countries, sharing resources, building trusts and improving the cultural and educational exchanges (China Daily). The process of Asian Integration seems much more easier than the European one because of the fact that Asian countries has stronger historical ties and sympathies towards each other, less aggression and more experience of dealing with multiculturalism. In addition to this, Central Asia, South Asia and Eastern Europe had no need to think about new routes. There are historical trade routes which need to be renovated only. There is a greater likelihood of a Eurasian Union because of the fact that the moment when these Chinese routs will enter into Europe, the clash of values will emerge. Where a lot of "Social Stigmas" are attached with accepting Asian, as Europeans are accepting their other European fellows. Even academicians are comparing European values with Asian values considering them completely different from themselves.

The work at macro level being done between Asian governments for economic integration advocates much higher in weightage than the cooperation going on between Asian and European countries. With the emergence of cooperating organizations and concepts like Asian Tigers, Asian Economic Powers, Custom Unions, SCO, ASEAN, SAARC we can advocate for an Asian Union which seems practically possible as compared with Eurasian Union.

Reconstruction of Silk Road

There is no doubt that China has realized that the domestic stability can be a hurdle in fulfilling its dream of becoming an economic power. The integration of

Xinjiang with Central Asia will not only provide security, domestic stability, economical collaborations and many strategic benefits but also will help it to build the ancient Silk Road and bring its glory back. On the other hand, this huge Chinese project of reconstruction of Silk Road will serve two purposes – the consolidation of China’s control of Xinjiang and the expansion of Chinese power in Central Asia – which contribute to Beijing’s quest for a “peaceful rise” to great power status.(Michael Clarke)

Looking at the broader picture, the smaller Central Asian states, particularly, Kyrgyzstan became very successful in extracting huge economic sources and material help from big powers like China and Russia as well as US. The other smaller countries have also become very successful in proving their strategic important to the big players of the game like US, Germany, Turkey and Middle East. The custom union present in Central Asia is a plus point and will give elevation to the Chinese idea of extension into Central Asia. The Silk Road once started working will give China an excess to the European Borders. This is not only in the interest of China but is also in the larger favor of Central Asian countries. One of the major, motivational factors for Central Asian countries to join Custom Union was to get easy excess towards Chinese products. Every country in Central Asia, somehow is dealing with of Chinese products. The Silk Road extension project is not just an economic integration but can be spread its tentacles on political integration where a huge cultural and educational integration is already going on between Central Asia and China.

Silk Road is a great opportunity for South Asia like India and Pakistan to cooperate in Central Asia, where both countries (Indian and Pakistan) have good relations with all the Central Asian countries. There is a possibility that Central Asia can help China, Pakistan and India to forget about their enmities and join hands with each other to work for a cooperative Asian Union.

Forbes article about international importance of New Silk Road Project states, “When we talk about the New Silk Road what we’re talking about is a network, and delineating the boundaries of any type of network is often a vague pursuit. Where the Silk Road network begins and ends is unclear, when it actually got started is debatable, and inquires into what countries it even includes are often inconclusive. It is perhaps easier to simplify the issue and just label the project as a “Chinese” initiative and look at it through the lens of the Belt and Road — and I’ve been guilty of this as well — but it just isn’t correct: the New Silk Road is international.”(Wade Shepard)

China Pakistan Economic Corridor

The CPEC is 64 billion dollars projects consisted of railroads, highways and sea port. It will connect Chinese city of Kashgar with the Pakistani port Gwader. This project is not only economically beneficial for the Pakistan but it will connect China with Indian Ocean. All the Chinese sea transportation which is happening through South China Sea will be done by this rout. It will decrease the sea routs for supplying oil from gulf countries to China as well as will give an excess to the Central Asian countries to the Indian Ocean.

Chinese Silk Road and the China Pakistan Economic Corridor have already connected Central Asia with South Asia. Considering the security issues and terrorism which this region is facing, security cooperation will also go hand in hand along with the economic cooperation. Each country will have to play its part to ensure the security of goods and transportation.

It is vivid that India and China are very much serious about the economic development and resolving the domestic issues. An Asian Union would be a great opportunity for India to resolve its disputes with China by sharing the One Belt Route and all the logistics provided by the China.

Conclusion

With all the efforts made by different countries to make a Eurasian Union, China's project, "One Belt-One Road" provides a possibility of forming an Asian Union. The practical step taken by China has all the necessary logistics required to make a union. The formation of European Union is a historical proof that how economic integration at Macro level between the states lead to the formation of a union. History can repeat itself.

Bibliography

Clarke, M. (2008). China's Integration of Xinjiang with Central. *China and Eurasia Forum Quarterly, Volume 6, No. 2*, 89-111 .

Shepard, W. (2016, 10 14). *The New Silk Road Is Not Chinese, It's International*. Retrieved 11 02, 2016, from Forbes: <http://www.forbes.com/sites/wadeshepard/2016/10/14/regardless-of-what-beijing-says-the-new-silk-road-is-not-chinese/#575d10477289>

Sukhoretzkaya, A. (2016, 06 23). *China building ties in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia*. Retrieved 11 02, 2016, from China Daily.com.cn: http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/opinion/2016-06/23/content_25823764.htm

The History of European Union. (n.d.). Retrieved 11 02, 2016, from European Union: europa.eu