

Sino-Indian RELATIONS At the Present Stage: Review

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Abstract

The presented work is devoted to the Sino-Indian relations at the present stage. The relevance of this topic is due to the growing political and economic role of the people's Republic of China and the Republic of India, not only within the Asia-Pacific region, but also on a global scale. The aim of this work is to study the main characteristics of bilateral relations, points of growth and stability in the region. The study of Sino-Indian relations and the factors determining their formation, will expand our understanding of the priorities of the political strategies of China and India, will help to reveal important aspects of the strategic plans of Beijing and Delhi to the Asian and Pacific regions, will provide a more reliable, factual and theoretical basis to predict the further development of Sino-Indian territorial dispute, competition of the two countries in the region and the world, cooperation between China and India in world politics. The research methodology is based on General humanitarian methods of scientific knowledge: comparative-historical, comparative-comparative and generalization methods, which allowed us to draw reliable conclusions. This material will be of interest to theorists and practitioners of international relations, economists and teachers of Oriental studies.

Keywords: China, India, Sino-Indian relations, international relations, Asia-Pacific region, foreign policy.

Introduction

In recent decades, we have seen the transformation of the system of international relations; the economy is playing an increasingly active role in international processes, and the

centers of economic growth are gradually moving from the North Atlantic space to the Asia-Pacific region (APR). Against this background, there is a noticeable increase in the role of the PRC and the Republic of India in global politics, strengthening their political and economic status in the world. China and India are home to 2 billion 570 million people, and the development of the two countries affects the fate of one third of humanity. Countries have huge human, natural, economic, military and strategic potential.

The relevance of this research topic is due to the fact that relations between China and India, as countries with a significant and growing role in the world system, largely affect the situation in the Asia-Pacific region and at the global level. The active position of China and India in international affairs serves the two countries' own national interests. These efforts contribute to countering the system of global dominance of the US and the West. At the moment, China and India are facing very active steps by the US and its allies aimed at curbing the growth of alternative centers of economic and political influence to the West. This prompted them to come together to find joint initiatives to establish a multipolar world. The interaction between Beijing and New Delhi holds great potential for the formation of a stable and harmonious world, the democratization of international relations and the establishment of a more just and rational international order. The study of Sino-Indian relations and the factors determining their formation would expand our understanding of the priorities of the political strategies of China and India, will help to reveal important aspects of the strategic plans of Beijing and Delhi to the Asian and Pacific regions, will provide a more reliable, factual and theoretical basis to predict the further development of Sino-Indian territorial dispute, competition of the two countries in the region and the world, cooperation between China and India in world politics, etc. In addition, Russia's cooperation with China and India is also of key importance for Russian foreign policy. In the current situation, Beijing and Delhi are Moscow's main partners and allies, both in military – political and economic terms.

Thus, the main goal of the research is a comprehensive study of all areas of Sino-Indian relations at the present stage in the context of the transforming architecture of international relations.

Methods

First, it is important to determine the starting point of Sino-Indian relations at the present stage. In 1987, another Sino-Indian border conflict occurred, which led to the "historic" visit of Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to China in 1988. Then the parties made a breakthrough in bilateral relations and agreed to look for mutually acceptable ways to resolve the border problem, while also actively developing relations in other areas. In addition, the late 1980s were marked by the transition to the second stage of the Chinese policy of reform and openness, the growth of the economy and living standards of the Chinese population, as well as the active establishment of economic and political ties with other states. This is what makes it possible to consider the end of the 1980s as the starting point of modern Sino-Indian relations.

The main methods of this scientific research are general humanitarian methods: comparative, comparative-historical, generalization method. Each of them made it possible to achieve the intended goal and present scientifically-based, reliable results and conclusions.

Results and Discussion

When analyzing the scientific basis of this study, we came to the conclusion that the historiography of the issue in Soviet/Russian science has been studied very little. Sino-Indian relations are studied only in two directions: territorial disputes between states and their cooperation within international organizations (RIC, BRIC, BRICS, SCO, etc.). The main theoretical works can be the works of A.V. Pedin [1], E.P. Bazhanov [2], B.C. Kuznetsov [3], as well as S.V. Uyanaev [4], A.R. Alikberova [5] and a number of scientific articles by S.I. Lunev [6].

Among Chinese authors, the developments of Wen Fude [7], Li Tao [8], Yang Haoyong [9], Xue Keqiao [10], Zhao Weiwen [11], Zhang Minqiu [12] and others deserve attention. Major monographs - "New reflections on India's diplomacy in the twenty-first century" by Wu Yunyan, Zhao Gancheng, and Ma Ying [13] cover India's policy towards China and South Asian countries. Special mention should be made of Sun Shihai's "Development of India and its foreign strategy" [14], and Ma Jiali's "Attention to India: becoming a power" [15]. A large number of articles on bilateral relations between China and India have been prepared by the Institute for South Asian studies at the Chinese Academy of social Sciences and the Institute for South Asian studies at Sichuan University. In recent years, due to the rapidly increasing role of India on the world stage and the pace of its economy, the number of scientific articles, analytical reports and publications in the media on Sino-Indian relations and the place of the Republic of India in the system of modern international relations has increased dramatically in China. These materials can also become sources and factual material for further study of Sino-Indian relations and their further development prospects.

India is also actively studying China's foreign policy and India-China relations. It is necessary to note an important feature: most of the works were written by former political figures or diplomats, which gives special significance to these materials. The collective work "Peacock and Dragon: Indian-Chinese relations in the XXI century" [16] deserves attention. It attempts to give an objective assessment of India's policy towards China and the general state of bilateral relations in various spheres. A significant number of research papers on China's policy towards India, as well as the bilateral relations of these countries, have been prepared by the Indian Institute for Chinese studies.

Today, China-India relations are becoming more active in all areas. Political cooperation is developing more than ever, since both States, while solving their national tasks, are also guarantors of security in the region. So, at the level of political interaction, China and India are resolving issues such as ensuring regional and global security, overcoming the international financial crisis, the emergence of climate change, fighting terrorism, ensuring energy and food security, while taking into account the common interests of developing countries. Fruitful cooperation also takes place within the framework of such multilateral formats of international cooperation as the UN, BRICS (RIC, BRIC), SCO and the Group of 20 [17].

The second major area of cooperation between the PRC and RI is trade and economic. Trade and economic cooperation serves as a leading incentive for the development of Sino-Indian relations of strategic partnership and cooperation. Bilateral trade has been developing rapidly over the past ten years. As the two countries with the largest emerging markets and the largest populations, China and India have broad prospects for trade and economic cooperation. The rapid growth of the Chinese and Indian economies not only opens up new opportunities

for exporting goods, but also expands the market space for imports.

China and India have significant potential for bilateral trade and cooperation in the fields of pharmaceuticals, telecommunications, electronic technology, finance and tourism. According to a study conducted by the Indian chamber of Commerce and Industry, China has already become India's largest trading partner, displacing the United States and Saudi Arabia. In turn, India is China's largest trading partner in South Asia. Chinese investment in the Indian economy is also growing, and Indian investment in the Chinese economy is growing.

The reason of that is largely the emerging trend towards improving the political climate of Sino-Indian relations, in the light of a number of past bilateral talks at the highest level. It is thanks to the strengthening and expansion of the legal framework of bilateral relations, including in the economic sphere, that the economic indicators of both countries are steadily growing.

The third area of active cooperation is humanitarian. The normalization of political relations and the socio-economic growth of both countries have all led to active cooperation in the humanitarian sphere. The history and culture of India and China are equally ancient and distinctive. In the era of globalization, issues of national identity and cultural significance are becoming the most relevant. The long-standing rivalry between Buddhist and Confucian cultures is becoming less obvious at the present stage, bringing to the fore a larger East-West paradigm. By strengthening their joint "Asian" power, China and India are increasing their cooperation in the humanitarian sphere. With the support of the governments of the two countries, scientific and educational relations are rapidly developing, joint research is being conducted, grant support for research projects is growing, and the number of Indian students studying in China and Chinese students in India is increasing. Cooperation is actively developing in the tourism, medical, and cultural spheres, with special emphasis on the media, cinema, and translation of fiction. At the same time, China, having developed a long-term foreign policy program to implement the "Chinese dream" and good funding for humanitarian projects, still has a large advantage. This area of interaction is promising and has enormous potential, including for normalizing the perception of the image of the neighboring state by the peoples of these countries. It should also be noted that it is poorly studied. the humanitarian component of Sino-Indian relations requires a more thorough analysis and further separate study.

Despite the fairly positive cooperation between the PRC and India, there are also contradictions that affect the overall climate of relations. India and China still have border and territorial claims. Despite the fact that the "Declaration" was signed in 2003 [18] the situation remains tense, so in May 2020, the conflict broke out again on the border, and the issues of territories had to be settled at bilateral negotiations in July 2020. Until now, India does not recognize the China's sovereignty over the Aksaychin region, and Beijing demands that New Delhi hand over the state of Arunachal Pradesh to the PRC. Also unresolved is the issue of the legal status of Tibet and the problem of the "Tibetan government in exile".

In addition to bilateral issues, the growing role and military power of the two Asian states increases the geopolitical contradictions. China and India conduct active foreign policy activities in accordance with their national interests, which is not always approved by other countries. For example, China fears that India's growing military and its relationship with the United States could be a threat to Chinese transports across the Indian Ocean. China is heavily dependent on imports of food and raw materials, which is why in recent years it has begun to

actively build up its naval forces, and the creation of "Pearl thread" anchor points in the Indian Ocean keeps the Indian government in suspense [19]. Myanmar, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives are the main Maritime reference points of the PRC.

It is also necessary to pay attention to the expansion of China's influence in Nepal. Beijing is actively developing relations with Kathmandu, and Nepal has clearly supported China's initiatives in the South Asian region. According to Indian analysts, China's "String of pearls is wrapped around India's throat." China's allies are located along the entire perimeter of the Indian sea and land borders. Delhi believes that South Asia and the Indian ocean are its traditional sphere of influence. China's growing strength in this region has naturally caused serious concern in India.

India, in turn, also began to develop naval power and began to take offensive positions in the South China Sea, which the Chinese side historically considers "its own". India's strategic partnership with the Philippines and Vietnam should also be noted. In contrast to China, India is trying to balance the power of the PRC in this region.

The two countries have their own interests on the African continent and in the countries of Central Asia, where there is also a confrontation and internal competition.

In addition, this section will study and analyze Chinese, Indian and other foreign media, statements of prominent political figures, government officials and foreign Ministry representatives on problematic issues of Sino-Indian relations. This monitoring and analysis of traditional and modern media will help identify and summarize the views of Chinese and Indian officials on the future prospects of Sino-Indian relations and predict their development.

According to a number of scholars, Sino-Indian relations go beyond the "bilateral dimension", representing part of a "multidimensional combination". The "other parties" here are Russia, the United States and Pakistan.

The format of Russia – India – China (RIC) cooperation had already found its shape by the early 2000s, and now this configuration is actively discussing the formation of a new security and cooperation architecture in the Asia-Pacific region, as well as the interaction of the three countries within various multilateral associations, including the BRICS, SCO, the mechanism of East Asian summits, and the ASEAN Regional security forum. For Russia, India and China remain important strategic partners.

In addition to Russia, the US also has a great influence on Sino-Indian relations. In addition to the field of nuclear energy, since 2005, India and the United States have developed extensive cooperation in the military field. The US intends to expand military-technical cooperation with India. If we evaluate the overall development of cooperation between India and the United States in the nuclear and military spheres, we can conclude that it is due not only to economic, but also to geopolitical motives. First and foremost, it should be seen as a geopolitical counterweight and a deterrent to China's rapidly growing economic and military power.

The "Pakistan factor" constantly influences Sino-Indian relations. As you know, Pakistan is a long-standing partner of China. China and Pakistan have established strong military cooperation. This military alliance seeks to counter American and Indian influence in the region. China's participation in building up the military potential of Pakistan is a matter of constant concern for India, an issue that negatively affects the dynamics of relations between

India and China.

Summary

China and India, the "civilization states", are the world's largest in terms of population, one of the largest territories, the fastest-growing economies in the world, the largest importers of energy resources, and so on. China-India relations have long gone beyond the scope of bilateral relations, and their global and strategic importance is increasing day by day. Sino-Indian relations have historically been difficult. Despite the fact that over the past 30 years, the parties have achieved significant results in resolving border issues, however, in 2013, 2014, and 2020, there were three incidents in the Western sector of the border. This means that the leaders of both states will have to work hard to finally resolve the territorial problem.

In the trade and economic sphere, China and India, being the countries with the largest emerging markets and the largest population, have broad prospects in this area. The government of N. Modi sees a direct link between the modernization of the Indian economy and the activity of Indian diplomacy in the world [20]. Delhi is trying to promote economic development and maintain high GDP growth rates. It is impossible to achieve this goal at the moment without cooperation with China. The Chinese economy and the Indian economy complement each other, and this opens up broad prospects for China-India trade and technical cooperation. However, there are also a number of factors that may hinder the development of trade and economic relations between the two countries. India faces a trade imbalance in favor of China. In 2014, the deficit was 37.8 billion dollars [21]. There is a significant lag in the volume of exports of Indian goods to China. This is a problem that needs to be addressed through, in particular, increased investment of Chinese capital in India.

The main geopolitical factor that objectively contributes to the rapprochement of China and India is that both countries equally do not accept the idea of a unipolar world order, attempts to preserve which have recently become increasingly aggressive. In this sense, Moscow has found many common interests with Beijing and Delhi. Currently, the three countries maintain fruitful relations of cooperation with each other within the framework of such multilateral formats of international cooperation as the RIC, BRICS, SCO, UN and G20, and through joint efforts they counteract the unipolar world under the aegis of the United States.

Conclusions

Thus, the factors contributing to the development of bilateral relations are: bilateral cooperation in the fields of trade, infrastructure construction, manufacturing, energy security, joint protection of peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region and in the world, reform of the international financial system, the fight against terrorism, food security, urbanization, etc., as well as multilateral cooperation within the framework of the RIC, BRICS, SCO and the UN. Restraining factors in the development of relations between China and India are: unresolved territorial issues, competition for resources and geostrategic influence, American and Pakistani influence. Obviously, there are more convergence factors than divergence factors. In addition, States have already taken significant measures to prevent the deterioration of relations and the growth of contradictions. The main measure is the establishment of a consultative and coordinating mechanism for the China-India border territories and cooperation between Chinese and Indian enterprises in the energy sector. Despite the border issue and the competition between China and India, the two Asian giants are drawn together by a large number of similar interests. The key element in this case is the need for both sides to have a

peaceful and stable environment for further development at a time when they are at a key stage of national revival.

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