

REVIEW
of the official reviewer for a PhD dissertation
on theme «China's contemporary social and economic interaction with India
in borders areas: models and challenges»
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Submitted for the award of a doctor of philosophy degree (PhD)
Specialty 6D020900 – Oriental Studies

1. The relevance of the research topic:

Complex relationships and the dichotomy of competition and convergence between India and China, especially in Central Asia regions, made this research topic relevant. Since the last two decades, China and India have emerged not only as of the fastest growing economy of the world but also as global actors who have the capability to influence the global order. China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and India's Connect Central Asia Policy (CCAP) is gaining momentum in Central Asia Region that's why it is significant to understand contemporary relations between two countries and the topic of this dissertation became more relevant in this context.

2. Correspondence of the dissertation topic to the priority areas:

As far as India and China's relations are a concern, scholar addressed appropriately the priority areas in the context of social and economic interaction with special reference to borders areas and their impact on militarization, infrastructure and trade relations between the two countries. Scholar extensively analyzed all the priorities area like Aksai Chin, MacMahon Line, Lipulekh Pass, Shipki La Pass and Nathu La Pass which are some of the significant points for economic interaction between India and China.

3. The degree of validity and reliability of each research result (scientific position):

1. Scholar properly pointed out that the long-standing border issues and its complex nature between China and India should be examined by various theoretical approaches as the single dimension will not be able to understand the complexity of this issue.

2. Scholar described in length about the multifaceted perspective to analyze the socio-economic relations between the two countries especially in terms of the engagement of other actors (like Pakistan and Bhutan) and its impact on the border issues.
3. Scholar also suggested the historical perspective and its impact on the border issues are still visible in the contemporary era which resulted in limitation of socio-economic engagement between China and India.
4. Scholar precisely pointed out the case studies like CPEC (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor) and Tibet issues are playing a prominent role in the border conflict between India and China.
5. Scholar accurately describes the relevance of personal touch to diplomacy in the recent past by both leaders of the respective countries made it possible to influence the border issues between India and China.

4. The practical and theoretical significance of research results:

Both India and China have a strategic partnership and historical relations with Kazakhstan. Within this reference, it is important to understand the India-China relations to better analysis of Kazakhstan's perspective either on bilateral or on a multilateral level. Scholar in this dissertation did a comprehensive survey of the various socio and economic issues between India and China which has direct implications to Kazakhstan's foreign policy and this shows the practical and theoretical significance of the research.

5. Comments and suggestions on the dissertation:

1. The whole dissertation deals with the various perspectives of economic factors between India and China in the bordering area, two of which are China-Pakistan-India triangle and Tibet issues. In the economic theoretical discussions, there was one discussion related to globalization and economic interdependence which presented objectively.
2. The dissertation acknowledged the construction and cross-referencing across the chapters. In the current version, all five chapters appear to be completely interdependent.

3. While the scholar mentions the methodological framework of research in Chapter two and in introductory sections of the remaining three chapters, there is a clear comparison of the results presented in this dissertation with reference to the methodological framework. The methodology used by the scholar is informative and multifaceted and accordingly the nature of the subject of this dissertation.
4. Chapter three extensively discussed the geopolitics of south Asia from a historical perspective with especially reference external countries and the international organizations which have their own impact on the India-China relations in bordering areas.
5. The scholar precisely argued in chapter 4 about the approach of the relations between India and China. Scholar stated the approach from multilateral to bilateral with special reference to the rapprochement of border relations and economic interdependence as a driving force of cooperation between India and China.
6. In Chapter five scholars deliberated upon the special cases like Aksai Chin and militarization and infrastructure issues in the bordering areas between India-China.
7. While the dissertation is very strong, technically, it may have limited appeal for the non-specialist. The kind of analysis reported here has very important impending implications for the fields of International relations, political science and area studies' specialist and students.

6. Compliance with the content of the dissertation in the framework of the requirements of the Rules for awarding academic degrees

The dissertation has compliance with the content in the framework of the requirements of the rules for awarding academic degrees.

**Director of the Centre for G-Global
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Dr. Punit Gaur