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Strategic triangle in Asia: India, China and United States in the emerging world order

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Abstract

This paper examines the evolving strategic triangle between United States, India and China in the emerging world order characterized by Multipolarism and a shift of power from Atlantic to Asia. The study argues that China has become the focal point or the pivot in the strategic triangle of Asia, which, in turn, is bringing United States and India closer for the containment of China. The paper examines how this triangle differs from Cold War models of strategic triangle, where complex interdependence and overlapping spheres of influence persist among the three nations of the triangle. The research explores how each nation in the triangle manages its own rise and protects its national interests while appreciating interdependence among each other. It also examines how Indian foreign policy of strategic autonomy and multi-alignment deals with the US policy of containing China and China's ambition for hegemony in Asia without entering into a formal alliance with USA.

The study concludes with the significance of Asian geopolitics in the emerging world order and the centrality of balance of power politics in the strategic triangle of India, the US and China. The future of the strategic triangle will depend on how these nations manage their rivalry without escalation through balance of power and economic interdependence.

Keywords: Strategic Triangle, Containment, Strategic Autonomy, Multi-alignment, Indo-Pacific, Multipolarism

Introduction

The post- cold war world order after the dissolution of Soviet Union was largely unipolar where United States reigned supreme as the world's sole superpower. However, after the 2008 financial crisis, the West has started declining in many spheres as evident in the rise of Asian powers, particularly India and China. Many scholars point out that 21st century would be an Asian century, unlike the 20th century which was American and the 19th century which was dominated by the European colonial powers (Mahbubani, 2018) [13]. India and China are the fastest growing economies of the world in the last three decades and the world politics has undergone a significant shift of power from Anglo sphere to Asians. The rise of Asia is the pre-eminent feature of this emerging world order which is largely going to be a multipolar world. The decline of the Washington Consensus and the subsequent search for the alternatives of the western lead institutions like IMF, World Bank, WTO and United Nations by Asian powers particularly China and India reinforces the idea that Asia has arrived on the stage of the world politics (Kissinger, 2014) [9].

In the post COVID world, where Europe and West Asia has witnessed two major wars in Ukraine and Gaza, the shift in world order is eminent. Both United Nations and United States were unable to bring peace in the region. Europe has requested both India and China to mediate in the Ukraine war. US-Europe relations have deteriorated due to rift in NATO over the Ukraine conflict. Both US and Europe have pressurized India not to assist Russia by importing its oil.

China in the new world order has emerged as a pre-eminent rival to the US supremacy in Asia due to its rapid economic growth and military modernization as well as its rise in key areas of artificial intelligence, robotics, semiconductors chips and supercomputers (Pillsbury, 2015) [25]. China's assertiveness in South China Sea and Indo-Pacific in recent years have posed a grave threat to US supremacy in the region in the wake of security guarantees given to Japan and South Korea and particularly Taiwan. The Trump administration during 2016 to

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2020 imposed huge tariffs on Chinese imports resulting into a 'trade war' between China and United States on the pretext of unfair trade practices which has complicated the relationship between the two nations (Yu, 2020) ^[30]. Their relationship further plunged in the wake of global pandemic Covid-19 when US accused China of bio-terrorism and the main cause behind the Covid pandemic. US withdrew from WHO on the pretext of mismanagement of Covid pandemic by it and accused China of pressurizing WHO. India emerged as the leader of the South in the COVID era due to its 'Vaccine Maitri' initiative where it has exported millions of dosages to African and Latin American countries at minimal prices. However, over dependence on China during COVID pandemic opened the eyes of US and Europe towards their manufacturing crisis.

In the new world order, three nations have emerged as the key players of the world politics. United States as the dominant power of the world and China as the challenging rising power in Asia. But unlike United States, China is not the sole hegemon in Asia. In Asia, power is distributed among many regional actors like ASEAN, Japan and other middle powers (Kissinger, 2014) ^[9]. Among these, India is the predominant regional power which has the sole capability to act as a balanced between US and China in Asian geopolitical landscape. Indian foreign policy of multi-alignment and strategic autonomy plays a crucial role in making India a true powerful 'Swing State' in the Asian dynamics of strategic triangle between India, China and US. This triangulation of strategic power is not regional in its implication but is central to global order and global stability (Raja Mohan, 2021) ^[19].

This concept of US-China-India strategic triangle is a peculiar concept in the emerging world order unlike the strategic triangle model of the Cold War era where US, China and Soviet Russia work incorporated in the triangle. In the new world order, multipolarism has replaced bipolarism and the present world is much more economically integrated and deeply connected through digital technology unlike in the era of Cold War (Nye, 2011) ^[21]. India participates both in QUAD as well as BRICS and SCO and US targets both China and India on the matter of tariffs. Both India and USA are over dependent on China as evident in their trade deficits with China. Alignments in the triangle are issue-specific and fluid as seen in India's foreign policy in Indo Pacific and its import of Russian oil. This fluidity makes triangular dynamics much more complex than previous Cold War triangular relationship. Both competition and cooperation occur in this triangular relationship as their national interest converts on some points and divers on some other matters.

This research paper aims to analyze the changing dynamics of the triangular relationship among the three nations in the new world order where both elements of divergence and convergence are present highlighting different aspects of their triangular relationship. The paper would explore the evolving security architecture in the Asian region and its overall impact on their regional stability by assessing the role of India as a balancer and swing state in this triangular relationship. It would also discuss and explore the role of multilateral platforms in triangular diplomacy as arenas of both cooperation and rivalry, particularly after the post-Covid world order where shifting global alignments has reshaped the triangular diplomacy among India, China and United States.

Guided by the above aim and objectives of the paper, the study would like to answer the following research questions:

1. How does the India-US-China strategic triangle impact stability and security of the region and shapes the evolution of multipolarity.
2. How India plays the role of a balanced between China and the United States in the emerging world order while preserving its strategic autonomy and multi alignment strategy to its advantage.
3. Can the strategic triangle framework adequately explain the interdependence among major Asian actors in a multipolar world?

Review of Literature

In international politics particularly in the context of power politics, strategic triangular relationship has been quite popular in the Cold War era (Dittmer, 1981) ^[4]. From the realist point of view, India -China -US strategic triangle should be viewed as balance of power politics among the three nations. Mearsheimer (2001) ^[16] argues that China's rise as a great power or regional hegemon in Asia is a direct threat to US supremacy in the region and therefore, other powers like India would cooperate with United States to contain China. He maintains that the structure of the international system dominated by anarchy leads to security dilemma among the security competitors. Allison (2017) ^[11] argues that US-China relationship is a classic example of 'Thucydides Trap' where ruling power feels threatened with the rise of an emerging power. He emphasized the need for "strategic imagination" and understanding of each other's core interest and domestic politics. Madan (2020) ^[12] maintains that Washington has historically understood India primarily as a function of its policy towards China.

The theme of strategic autonomy and multi-alignment is very popular among Indian scholars. Raja Mohan (2021) ^[19] argues for a decisive strategic choices made by India to counter the China's threat of containment through multi-pronged strategy of hedging and strategic partnerships with US and participation in QUAD. Menon (2021) ^[15] emphasizes its strategic autonomy as crucial in the new world order to avoid alliance politics between US and China. He prefers issue based alignments with both US and China. Tellis (2018) ^[28] argues that both China and India are natural geopolitical competitor in South Asia. India therefore, needs a greater strategic partnership with US to counter China and criticize Indian policy of multi-alignment as it could offend US. Pant (2018) analyses Indian simultaneous engagement in multilateral forums backed by both US and China acknowledges India's tilt towards US for security partnerships while maintaining economic links with China. He argues that China can only be managed by India through its partnership with US.

Some writers have studied this triangle and especially India-China relations in terms of strategic culture of both nations. India and China both are civilizational states and therefore their historical and cultural legacy determine their threat perceptions. Jaishankar (2020) ^[7] examines Indian foreign policy with the civilizational context and maintains Indian strategy should be guided by its own traditions and civilizations found in Mahabharat and Ramayan epics. He prefers management of China through diplomacy and hard bargaining. Saran (2016) ^[26] argues that Chinese Civilization believes in hierarchy and he cautions against the role of deception in Chinese strategic culture. He prefers cotillion

diplomacy for Indian foreign policymakers in a multipolar world.

Existing literatures on strategic triangles do not properly fit into the new world order of multipolarity which is uncertain and unpredictable as it is not ideological driven. Moreover, most studies are often on bilateral aspect of India-US or China - US or India-China and there is scarcity of studies of overall impact of strategic triangles analysis on world stability and security. Most studies are focused on security aspect of the triangular geopolitics whereas aspects related to geo-economics and technology are unexplored. Multilateral institutions are studied in isolation like QUAD, SCO, BRICS and its overall impact on triangular relationship is not fully explored. Tariff wars between US-China and US-India and renewal of RIC platform should be studied in detail to assess fully the triangular relationship among the three nations. This paper addresses these research gaps by exploring strategic triangle in a new world order characterized by multipolarity.

Methodology

This study employs qualitative and analytical research design for examining the recent trends in strategic triangle among India, US and China in the new world order. It would use secondary data from sources like academic text, general articles, report of think tanks and newspaper articles to analyze various theoretical debates like realism, complex interdependence and liberal institutionalism to analyze multilateralism in platforms like SCO, BRICS, QUAD and G20. It would employ constructivism to analyze how values and perceptions play pivotal role in influencing triangular dynamics. The research would be comparative and interpretive and tries to connect various themes of international relations with current geopolitical events.

Emerging strategic Triangle in Asia

In the new emerging world order, India plays a key role in the Asian geopolitics both in the region of northern Indian Ocean and Indo-Pacific due to its growing maritime power and vibrant economy. With the decline of the United States and the rise of China the geopolitical dynamics in Asia has changed the balance of power in the region. India China relations have deteriorated after the Galwan Valley clash in 2020 and the interference of the United States has been on the rise in the South Asian affairs. US-China relations have also suffered a setback in the Trump presidency on the issue of trade and the growing defense relationship with India culminating in the formation of QUAD to corner and contain China in the Indo-Pacific (Mohan & Singh, 2023). India-US strategic relations grew exponentially in the last two decades both under the Democrats as well as Republican administration, cementing the view that India-US are natural partners in the post Cold War era. Though India-US relations in the Cold War were strained due to many structural reasons, China was the main reason behind India-US estranged relationship. Madan (2020) ^[12] argues in her book that US relationship with India was primarily shaped by the China in the Cold War era, particularly post 1971 China-US rapprochement. Apart from her many scholars of International Relations have employed the strategic triangle framework to understand China, US and India relationship both in the Cold War and post-Cold War World Order.

Strategic triangle in international relations is a tool or framework for understanding the broad interactions among three major powers in a particular world order. One cannot understand bilateral relationship among two nations without knowing the influence of the 3rd actor or interdependence among the three nations. Many scholars like Robert Jervis and Lowell Dittmer has employed strategic triangle framework to understand the structure of the international system. Dittmer has developed the typology of different types of combinations within a triangle like stable or non-stable triangle depending upon the pattern of cooperation and conflict among the three powers of the system (Dittmer, 1981) ^[4].

Madan argues integrating the views of Jervis and Dittmer that India, US and China strategic triangle was unstable as China was always the 'pivot' of the triangle and it viewed both US and India as a threat or rival in Asian geopolitics. All three powers of the triangle were suspicious of each other's goals and motives and perceived each other's interest through the lengths of security dilemma (Madan, 2020) ^[12].

However, in the new emerging world order the strategic triangle involving India, US and China has transformed in many ways. US is the dominant power and China is the new rising power of Asia, which is challenging the unipolarity of United States in Asian affairs as both India and US regard China as their rival, balance of power in Asia is witnessing the strengthening of India-US partnership in many spheres in order to contain China.

India-China Dynamics

Since the inception of the Cold War, India-China relations have been strained with mutual mistrust, particularly after the annexation of Tibet by China in the 1950s, as both nations share a long border in the Himalayas. After the border War of 1962, both nations changed their course of strategic thinking in the 1970s by joining opposite camps of the Cold War (Menon, 2021) ^[15]. However, their mutual mistrust and rivalry is still continuing in the post-cold war era. Many scholars believe that the main reason behind their rivalry is not the border problem but their mutual mistrust due to security dilemma and other structural constraints. As both nations identify themselves as old civilizational states, both have different perceptions about each other and a different worldview (Saran, 2016) ^[26].

India and China are big powerful nuclear neighbours having different ideologies and strategic culture. India deems China as an expansionist power and blames China for the delay in border settlement despite many confidence building measures for the last three decades. The biggest fear of Indian policy makers is the growing threat of China-Pakistan nexus and the possibility of two-front war in the Himalayas (Sawhney & Wahab, 2017) ^[27]. Both nations want to contain each other in South Asia and Indo-Pacific region as well as in Indian Ocean through different strategies. China has surrounded Indian subcontinent with strategic ports in Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Pakistan and has built Mega infrastructure projects under Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in Eurasia and South Asia to secure its trade routes for energy security. China has invested billions of dollars in Pakistan for CPEC and developed Gwadar port due to its 'Malacca dilemma'. China wants strategic encirclement of India to dominate South Asia and tries to

thwart Indian Navy presence in Indian Ocean region (Pant, 2016) ^[23].

India, on the other hand, joined QUAD to contain Chinese power in Indo-Pacific region with the help of United States and other democratic nations like Japan and Australia to support free and open Indo-Pacific governed by rule of International law. India has participated along other nations in Malabar naval exercises in Bay of Bengal to cooperate in maritime security in the region. China is apprehensive of QUAD and has denounced it as a strategy of United States to counter Chinese power in South China Sea (Menon, 2021) ^[15]. Indian policy of 'Act East' has been quite beneficial for the promotion of Indian power in Southeast Asia. Philippines, Vietnam, Indonesia and Singapore are developing strategic and security partnerships with India as they fear China's rise as threatening to their territorial integrity and sovereignty (Pant, 2016) ^[23]. After the 2020 Galwan Valley clash, India-China relations have suffered unprecedentedly. India has affirmed that without solving border problem, India China relations cannot be improved in the long term (Krishnan, 2020) ^[11]. However, India's participation in SCO and BRICS and RIC multilateral platforms shows that India wants a working relationship with China marked by both constraint and corporation.

China-US Axis

China US relations were marked by hostility in the first phase of the Cold War due to ideological rivalry. However, after Nixon-Mao secret pact in 1971, relations were normalized to counter Soviet Union. However, in the post-Cold War era, US supported the rise of China economically through foreign direct investment and technology transfer to it. United States helped China to gain membership of WTO in 2001 (Pillsbury, 2015) ^[25]. The reason behind US thinking to assist China was to co-opt China in the liberal world as a responsible stakeholder for the sake of global stability in the post-Cold War era. US multinational companies invested heavily in China due to low labour costs and profitability. China became hub of the manufacturing industries of the world and soon transformed its economy to a new level (Kissinger, 2011) ^[8].

However, the new material prosperity of China did not alter its political system as envisaged by the United States. China on the other hand became a rival to the United States in the second decade of the 21st century in many realms, particularly after the 2008 financial crisis. Its economy doubled from 2008 to 2015 and its military power particularly naval power expanded and undergone extensive modernization. Mearshimer maintains that American assistance to China was the greatest strategic blunder in modern history. Pillsbury (2015) ^[25] argues that United States miscalculation of China's intention is a major intelligence failure. China has emerged as the greatest threat to the American hegemony in Asia and is ready to challenge the liberal world order.

China is competing with United States on many fronts for supremacy like semiconductors manufacturing, artificial intelligence and quantum computing, 5G technology as well as clean energy technology. America has banned Huawei and imposed export controls to counter China's access to US cutting edge technology. Trump administration has imposed huge tariffs on Chinese goods leading to a 'Trade War' with China in order to counter supply chain dominance of China in rare-earth minerals and other

products. In order to contain Chinese geopolitical influence in Indo Pacific and South China Sea, it has entered into a partnership with India to form QUAD for maritime security in Indo Pacific and has signed many defence deals with India since its launching of 'pivot to Asia' strategy in 2011. Allison (2017) ^[1] argues that a clash between China and US is imminent in near future as China is a rising power with a different ideology and US is a ruling power. He contends that the sudden rise of China would not be peaceful for the international order as it has created substantial structural stress.

The Geopolitics of India-US Relations

India-US relations in the Cold War were not very positive due to Cold War alignments of both nations. However, after the end of Cold War, India-US relations have improved significantly after the visit of Bill Clinton in the year 2000. India had entered into 'strategic partnership' with the United States in the early 2000s and has supported US 'war against terror' after 9/11 incident. India managed to get a 'Nuclear Deal' with the US without signing the NPT in 2008. Menon (2016) ^[14] In the second term of Obama presidency, India-US became close partners due to change of policy of United States in Asia known as 'pivot to Asia' approach where both nations entered into an informal understanding to contain Chinese power in Indo-Pacific region. Under Trump, India became 'major defense partner' of the US and has signed major defense deals like the pact of LEMOA(Logistics Exchange Memorandum Of Agreement), COMCASA(Communications Compatibility And Security Agreement) and BECA(Basic Exchange And Cooperation Agreement) which deals in military logistics and communication agreements.

India-US established 2 + 2 Ministerial Dialogue forum for interactions among Foreign and Defense ministers of both countries in addition to naval exercises of Malabar in Bay of Bengal to enhance their strategic and security relationship (Gokhale, 2020) ^[6]. India in recent years has also become top importer of defense weapons worth billions of dollars from the United States. In short, both United States and India wants to contain Chinese power both in Indo-China and Indian Ocean region by collaborating into different domains. However, Indian foreign policy of strategic autonomy and multi-alignment has created some friction in Indo-US relations particularly on the matter of Ukraine conflict and the purchase of Russian oil.

Triangular Interactions in the Emerging World Order

US, China and India are the major powers in the emerging world order. US is a declining power whereas India and China are emerging as rising powers of the Asian region. All three powers trade with each other on huge scale but have significant political and security problems among themselves. China is a threat for the United States on many fronts but both nations are much interdependent economically. US for the last three decades has assisted China on the premise that economic liberalization would trigger democratic reforms in China. However, American efforts were not successful as communist regime in China has strengthened itself from the globalization process (Pillsbury, 2015) ^[25]. China is a huge market for American companies as well as a profitable outsourcing nation for its manufacturing needs. China has benefited immensely in technology and trade with the partnership of

US for its own advantage. US has not gained much with its trade with China as it was overly dependent on China as evident in the Covid crisis period in the United States.

Both nations' economies are dependent on each other as China is a manufacturing giant exporting consumer goods to United States and is also one of the largest foreign holders of US Treasury bonds which is crucial for US national debt financing. The US is also dependent on China for its rare earth minerals which are important for high-tech industries related to defence and green energy. China on the other hand, needs vast US markets as its economy is largely export-oriented. It needs US high-end technology related to semi-conductor chips and critical software. Due to complex interdependence of both economies, recession in one country would impact another country's GDP and growth rate.

However, under Trump Administration China was targeted on the front of tariffs and a trade war was initiated by the United States in order to manage its economic relationship to its own advantage. US acknowledged its big trade deficit with China and started viewing China as 'strategic competitor' in the new world order under Trump presidency, mainly in Indo-Pacific region where Taiwan issue is predominant factor between China and US. QUAD was revived by Trump in 2017 to tackle and contain Chinese hegemony in the Indo-Pacific and South China Sea with the help of India and Japan.

India China relations after the advent of nationalist government in both nations under Modi and Xi Jinping have deteriorated much on the border dispute particularly in Ladakh region. After the Galwan Clash, India had suspended direct flight to China and had banned many apps related to Chinese companies. India has categorically said on many international forums that without solving border dispute, India and China cannot improve their overall relationship (Gokhale, 2020) ^[6]. China is the largest trading partner of India and has huge trade surplus in its favor. India is dependent on China on many aspects like pharmaceuticals, electronics, telecom, machinery, chemicals and fertilizers. Over-dependency on China which is India's main security and strategic rival is India's critical weakness to be solved immediately. India should diversify its import from other nations to secure itself from supply chain disruptions from China in times of crisis like Covid pandemic and Galwan border clashes (Mohan & Singh,).

In spite of these concerns, both India and China cooperate on many global issues like climate change under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Both nations want reforms of the financial institutions like IMF and World Bank according to their economic cloud and have made alternative institutions like Asian Infrastructure Industrial Bank (AIIB). Both India and China cooperate in WTO many issues important for the developing nations like agricultural subsidies, non-tariff barriers labor reforms and protectionist policies of the developed world (Pant, 2016) ^[23]. Both nations engage themselves in many multilateral institutions like SCO, BRICS, RIC, G20 and UN on many important issues like counter terrorism activities, non-traditional security challenges, technology transfer and alternative payment systems for trading. Both China and India maintain that territorial integrity and sovereignty of developing nations should be respected and should not be violated on the pretext of humanitarian intervention and regime change (Dunne, 2015) ^[5].

India-US relations have been on the rise in the last two decades. Both nations are strategic and natural partners as they need each other for the containment of China. Both nations are heavily dependent on China for consumer goods, chemicals and rare earth minerals and have huge trade deficit with China. India needs US for its technology and capital and US needs India for its huge market and a big power in Indian Ocean as its main ally. US has included India in QUAD to stabilize Indo-Pacific affairs and have accorded India as a major defense partner (Bajpai, 2021) ^[2].

India does not want to become an ally of US against China but an important partner as India avoids any alliance type relationship with any nation (Jaishankar, 2020) ^[7]. Indian policy of strategic autonomy and multi-alignment is problematic to US as India shares many multilateral institutions and platforms with China and Russia which the US maintains as threats to global stability especially after the Ukraine conflict in Europe.

India in the last decade has joined both China dominated institutions like BRICS and SCO and has also revived RIC on the Russian demands after Galwan and Ukraine conflict where it is also cooperating with the US to contain China in Indo-Pacific region by joining QUAD for maritime security in the region (Donnell & Papa, 2021) ^[22]. China though worried maintains that India-US relationship lacks political maturity as both nations mistrust each other on many strategic and security areas and their partnership is not on long term basis. China maintains that their relationship with India is not on par with great power relationship but important for only regional stability and territorial integrity. China-India relationship does not have much implication on broader structure of international system unlike China-US relationship or China-Russia relationship (Korolev & Wu, 2019) ^[10].

US is also facing political dilemma in its relationship with democratic India as it does not want to make India very strong as US does not want an India that is strong enough to become another regional hegemon in Asia. Both State Department and Pentagon pursue different strategies towards India for their policy of 'guided rise' of India. Pentagon helps in Indian defense empowerment through its various logistic agreements and joint exercises while State Department cautions India on its stand on Ukraine conflict and Kashmir problem to restrain India's multi-alignment policy with China and Russia.

For India, the challenge is to carefully balance both United States and China in South Asia and simultaneously ensuring its rise in global affairs by managing its relation with China and leveraging US partnership for defence modernization (Jaishankar, 2020) ^[7]. India with its dominance in South Asia and Indian Ocean and having a huge economy and great military power perfectly acts as a 'Swing State' in this multipolar world. India should preserve its multi-alignment and strategy autonomy policy to shape livelihood between China and United States as it has great implication on global stability and international power structures. India many times employees 'normative hedging' by taking ambivalent positions on many global issues like humanitarian intervention and climate change (Ian Hall, 2016 as cited in O'Donnell and Papa, 2021) ^[22]. India is trying to balance liberal norms with the new emerging norms of the developing world prioritizing global and regional stability with emphasis on state rights.

Conclusion

The evolving strategic triangle between India, US and China is the most important and significant aspect of the new emerging global order which represents the shifting balance of power from Atlantic to Asia particularly Indo-Pacific region. This triangular relationship exhibits both economic interdependence as well as security and strategic rivalry as their core national interest and sphere of influences often collide in Asian geopolitics. The United States wants to contain its primary rival China in Indo-Pacific with the help from India which is its strategic partner whereas India wants to avoid open security alliance with United States to contain China due to its policy of strategic autonomy and multi-alignment. As India is economically dependent on both countries, India seeks to engage both nations through various multilateral institutions and often employs forum shopping to advance its core interests. China on the other hand, is trying to become a regional hegemon in Asia through its growing economic might and military build-up and its various infrastructural projects like Belt and Road initiative. China is trying to convince its neighbors about its 'peaceful rise' which is beneficial for the economic stability of the region. Though India and United States are apprehensive of the rise of China and want to contain its growing power, both nations differ in their approaches. While US wants Chinese containment through various institutional mechanisms like QUAD and AUKUS, India prefers soft balancing and hedging with regard to China with its policy of strategic autonomy and multi-alignment where both competition and cooperation co-exist simultaneously.

India is facing intervention in South Asia from both China and United States but is at the same time cooperating with China to end the dominance of dollar and tries to reform the United Nations and other financial institutions of the world like IMF and the World Bank. India is also engaging China in multiple platforms like SCO, BRICS and RIC in order to develop new non-western norms for the New World Order and wants to weaken Russia-Chinese strategic partnership in these Eurasian institutions.

This strategic triangle which is very fluid will continue to reshape the Asian security paradigm and global stability with balance of power strategy at its core. The future of the Asian geopolitics and global stability depends on the ability of these nations to balance their core national interests with shared transnational challenges. The research shows that in Asian geopolitics, complex interdependence plays its vital role in economic and security arena and maintains that balance of power in Indo-Pacific is no longer a zero sum game. India has to play a vital role in the stability of the strategic triangle as a perfect balancer so that a mechanism for security and stability in the region can be maintained for the overall prosperity of the region.

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