

## **NEW GREAT GAME IN: THEORY AND APPLICATION A CASE STUDY OF CENTRAL ASIA**

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### **Abstract**

*World politics has continuously been in a very dynamic condition due to fluctuating existing international political scenario. The variations in global regimes from bi-polarity to uni-polarity has culminated in the supremacy of the sole super power of the world i.e., the USA but the clashes on opposing ideologies have ended now. The power politics is still inapplicable phenomenon but the balance axis of the global chess-board has been transformed and now the supremacy over the energy reservoirs has become the sole purpose of the great powers to proclaim their influence in the world politics. Today energy resources have great significance for every country. The reserves of Central Asian states are very crucial for global economy and there is an imperialistic competition to get hold of these resources. The struggle for Central Asian oil and gas is a very complex game. It involves security, geopolitical and economic interests not only of Russia, China and other neighbors like Pakistan and Iran but it is also imperative for USA and for the whole Europe. The energy resources and in particular the hydrocarbon deposits of Central Asia have now become an apple of discord for major powers of the globe and it is culminated into a New Great Game to control over enormous resources of Central Asia. Energy issues in China, USA, Russia; and the whole of Asia and Europe have augmented the interests of great powers in Central Asian region.*

**Keywords:** *Central Asia, World Politics, Uni-Polarity, Bi-Polarity, Energy Resources*

**Theoretical Analysis**

“Great Game” as a term was used by Arthur Connolly for the 1<sup>st</sup> time in 1835. Originally it was used by R. Kipling, a British novelist. It denoted to the struggles and contest between British and Russia to achieve authority in the Central Asia in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Great Game is not a fresh notion. The Central Asian region was the hub of ongoing rivalries and competitions in the ancient times. The New Great Game is merely a form of Great Game played between Great Britain and Russia in Central Asian region in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The struggle between the West and the components of SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organization) to take maximum control over the reserves of gas and oil has now twisted into a New Great Game in Central Asia. The New Great Game is multidimensional by nature. It includes the political economic and security dimensions as the interests of Great powers in Central Asia are wide-ranging. USA, China and Russia have their aims to boost up their influence in Central Asian region in order to demonstrate the legacy of Helford Mackinder as Helford Mackinder believed that the control of the Eurasia will eventually lead the control of the whole world. “When everyone is dead the Great Game is finished. Not before.” (Allworth, 2011). “From 1813 to 1907 Great Britain and Tsarist Russia were engaged in a strategic competition for domination of Central Asia, known in Britain as “The Great Game”, and in Russia as the “Tournament of Shadows.” (Khan, 2002).

**Functional Analysis**

Great Game was in fact a clash between two Great powers Britain and Russia to get hegemony over Eurasia. For Britain, the control and influence in Central Asia was significant to maintain security of all its Indian colonies. For Russian point of view, Central Asian region was important to gain access to the warm waters of the Indian Ocean. Despite their benefits in Central Asia, both of the imperialistic powers had never professed war against each other. At that time, the Central Asian states were not sovereign states as a whole or govern by a leading political sovereign. They were controlled by despots who have traditions of Mongol and Turkish. The so-called Great Game was concerned with security and it had also political ambitions.

The British considered the Russian domination in Central Asian region would be a perpetual risk for British Empire and it would provide a perfect facilitator for an

incursion of Britain's zones in the subcontinent. Furthermore, they were chiefly concerned about Russia achieving a warm water port.

British arrived in the Sub-Continent in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and gained control the whole Sub-continent. British had desired to enlarge its control to the present Afghanistan as well as the entire Central Asia. British fought wars with Afghans to achieve the control of Central Asia. It sought to keep away the Tsarists Russia out of Central Asia. British supposed that Russia's control over Central Asia would lead it for its imperialistic goals in Afghanistan and it decline the British Raj in the Sub-Continent. The Russia as well as the British interests in Sub-Continent and this region fuelled to the concept of the Great Game. Russia offered itself as a struggle in South and Central Asia by striking its hegemony in Eastern Europe. It gave birth to a Great Game between Russia and British in 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Great Game can be categorized as follows:

- There were two main components involved in Great Game.
- Political communities like khanates were fragile in Central Asian region.
- Afghanistan was the core and main arena of which this Great Game was being played.
- Pre-eminence of the system level and absenteeism of the regional level.
- There were some Political as well as strategic concerns behind this Great Game. (Buranelli, 2009).

**Hopkirk (2002) categorized this Great Game into three phases.**

### **1<sup>st</sup> PHASE**

1st phase covered the late 18<sup>th</sup> and the early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Russia started struggle to enlarge its power in Central Asia and the Caucasus. East India Company of British considered it a serious threat, which was the *de facto* power of India and inclined towards hunted more means to involve in this region to preserve British Empire as well as of its foreign and colonial policy. Deployment of secret agents and military actions as well as were co jointly used to strengthen hold over Central Asian region. The 1<sup>st</sup> phase was ended in 1907 after signing Anglo-Russian convention.

**2<sup>nd</sup> PHASE**

2<sup>nd</sup> phase started in 1907 and lasted for about 10 years and ended in 1917. Similar devices were used in this phase to handle native communities and population.

**3<sup>rd</sup> PHASE**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> phase of Great Game started after the revolution of Russia in 1917. The Bolsheviks started to release the whole Asia from the imperialists. The power of Bolsheviks was enlarged over Tsarist domains in 3<sup>rd</sup> phase.

Morgan, however have diverse viewpoint. He claimed that there is no sound confirmation of clashes or the intelligence system of British in Central Asia. He clarified that the British just sought to control the native population of India, rather than hunting to prevent the assault of Russian empire. (Morgan, 2013).

As Great Game emerged with the escalation of the Russian Empire, the New Great Game started after the disintegration of Russian Empire. The Central Asian states have their shared history and it provides assistance to unite these states with one another. Central Asia is always under the control of Great powers like Ottoman Empire, Russia and currently in the hands of Great powers. (Akbar, 2012).

Russia ruled Central Asia directly nearly about 80 years and later the liberation of Central Asia; a strategic power vacuum has been formed and caused into competitions among many states in Central Asia.

“A multitude of countries has shown commercial interest in the region, especially its natural resources. They include neighbors Russia, Turkey, Iran, and China as well as nearby Pakistan and India; and the United States, Europe, Japan, Saudi Arabia and even Israel”.( Jaffy, A. M. 1998).

Central Asian region has excessive energy potential and it is also strategically significant in the contemporary world politics. For example, Kazakhstan has the major energy reservoirs in the world. Uzbekistan is the biggest producer of cotton and gold. Turkmenistan has the leading reservoirs of gas in the World. The huge energy reservoirs of Central Asia and its geo strategic position offer a temptation to the Great powers to take control of Central Asian region to chase their vivacious interests. Due to the land lock position of the region, Central Asian region is guaranteed to depend on major powers for the export of its resources.

The appearance of five Central Asian states has altered the geo political environment of the international politics. There are mainly three aspects which increase the power of Central Asian countries in the region. First and primary feature is the position of the Central Asia. It is non-coastal region and wants appropriate routs of pipelines to transfer its reservoirs to the world market. Secondly, it is the neighbor of two Great powers Russia and China and thirdly, these region enormous reservoirs of oil and gas which have augmented its worth in the eyes of Great powers and it has become a bone of contention among Great player. The economic structure as well as the political characteristics is mainly noticeable due to its geo-graphical location. The endurance of Central Asian states is basically depends on the preservation of numerous links and corridors.

Dick Cheney, the former Vice President of the Bush administration, emphasized the significance of Central Asian region in the world politics during his speech to oil industrialists in Washington, D.C. in 1998, "I cannot think of a time when we have had region emerge as suddenly to become as strategically significant as the Caspian".(Abilov, 2012).

The strategic vacuum in the region was shaped rapidly after the demise of USSR, USA, China and some other regional players arrived in the region to fill this strategic vacuum. This instigates a New Great Game in the region. It is actually a stern struggle among great powers in the Central Asian region to keep the domination in the region. Central Asian states also need the great powers presence in the region for their security and stability. After the independence, these states have to face many challenges for example ethnicity, drug trafficking, economic challenges as well as political instability. These states were unable to solve these issues by themselves and always relied upon the other actors for their internal stability and security. This attitude made it quite easy for the great powers to enter in the region. These great powers (Russia, China, and USA) are trying to keep hold over the region for their energy security as well as they want to make the region stabilize. These powers have many political, economic and strategic interests in the region.

In the rouse of 21st century, Russia, China, and USA are trying to fortify their ties with Central Asian states. China has invested in many financial projects in Central Asia. China and Russia are trying to cut down the domination of USA in the Central Asia. They formed SCO to boost up their role in Central Asia. USA

also wants to use Central Asia's energy reserves for its aims. The paradox of relation of three Great powers in Central Asia is multifaceted to some extent as all three states are trying to pursue their own national interests. Their main goal is to keep control of Central Asia as Mackinder in his Heartland Theory gives significance to Central Asia and believes that the power which rules the Centre of Asia would rule over the entire world. He considers the Eurasia as the heartland of Asia which consist Central Asia as well as Afghanistan. The geo strategic as well as economic factor is the basic inspiring dynamism behind New Great Game.

The regional players cannot be ignored in this New Great Game. Pakistan, Iran, Turkey and Afghanistan are also key players in this fierce competition. After 2004, FATA (Federally Administrative Tribal Areas) have become the place of armed group of Uzbek, Tajiks, Uyghur's and other militant groups related to Bin Ladin's international front and they tried to promote the pan-Islamic ideology of Bin Ladin. The main purpose of this IIF (International Islamic Front) was to establish an Islamic state comprising Afghanistan, Central Asian states and Xinxiang based on the pan-Islamic ideology of Usama Bin Ladin.

These terrorists have started terrorist activities in Pakistan via Afghan border. The security of South and Central Asia was at stake. The parliament of Pakistan passed a unanimous resolution in 22 October 2008 that every possible step would be taken to eradicate the evils of extremism, terrorism from the region. The Muslim of Uzbekistan established IMU (Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan) in 1991 to establish an Islamic state .IMU was renamed as IPT (Islamic party of Turkistan) in 2001. The activities of Islamic movement of Uzbekistan were controlled by the areas of Afghanistan and their main objective was to create instability inside the Central Asian region. (Warikoo ,2014).

The economic and strategic relations of Central Asian states are considered by the rival strategies of US, Russia and China. The main reason of this rivalry is the hydrocarbon reservoirs of Central Asia. Presence and strategic capabilities are required to control gas and oil transport infrastructure. "Competing and confronting interests of the Russia, USA, and China are the grounds of strategic rivalry in the region."(Kurecic, 2010).

The presence of Russia and China has made the US policy makers insecure how to have their strategic interests in the region. After 9/11, the world move into a

new era. USA started war against terrorism and established air and land bases in Central Asian region. Russia's policy was to boost up its relation with USA supported US policy towards war against terrorism. It facilitated Russia to ease its ties with USA. Russia supported USA military troops to be stationed in Central Asia. (Youngling, 2008).

In 2001-2002, Putin fixed to the highly uncertain American plans to use Central Asian air domes and permitted USA to use Russia's airspace. Recently, the Russian-Chinese association is more fruitful and stable under the framework of SCO. It is because of the convergence of interests of China and Russia in order to expand the strategic strength in Central Asian region to handle the peril emerged through "Color Revolution", the presence of NATO armed contingent in Afghanistan and finally through the socio-economic development of Central Asia.

A Joint Declaration in March 26, 2007 was signed by China and Russia. PRC and RF "to contribute in every possible way to magnify the relations of SCO with the EEC and the Collective Security Treaty Organization", in which Russia is playing a leading role. (Youngling, 2008).

After September 9/11, USA has made direct military to military relations with these states. This led to the success of US in Afghanistan. US direct intervention in this region and stationing its troops urged China and Russia. China and Russia's interest are converged in strategic as well as economic realms. Threat of Islamic extremism has brought the two countries closer together. SCO established in 2001 to cope the menace of frightening escalation of US in Central Asia. (Virginia, 2014).

Through this platform, the China and Russia convinced Uzbekistan and Tajikistan to vacant their regional borders from USA troops. (Phellan, 2012) The growing impact and collaboration of China and Russia was also a menace for USA to protect its interests. Shared collaboration between China and Russia on the issue of nuclear crises of Iran and issue of North Korea verified as a menace for the interests of USA in the region. USA was considered that it could not put sanctions or introduce military operation solely. USA adopted the strategy to regulate its relation with China and Russia.

Central Asia's growing relations with China is itself a threat for Russia. Central Asian states are exploring new supply routes i.e. Kazakhstan-China oil pipeline which is a sign of danger for Russia to loss its weightage in the region. And the ongoing competition is inevitable despite the convergence of interests. (Virginia, 2014).

Central Asian countries are more persuaded towards China to eradicate "three evils" rather than Russia and USA. China is trying to counter the influence of US in Central Asia through SCO. The growing economic, politico, and strategic interests among Central Asian countries and China has enormous allegations for USA. USA considers Central Asian region very dynamic because of its hydrocarbon reserves and it's an inspiring energy divergence choice for USA. It is the need of the day for USA to involve Central Asia through various economic policies. The more balanced and positive way is essential in this regard. (Haider, 2014).

Russia is incapable to keep its grip in Central Asia and USA is unconscious about the comprehensive understanding of Central Asia. China is one and only great power who is playing the part of basic interlocutor in New Great Game. Although People's Republic of China has no imperialist intentions, yet it could distract the equation of balance of power in the region. Russia has lost its position and sphere of influence in Central Asia due to the recent Russia's resurgence in Ukraine. (Matlack, 2014).

Alexander Cooley defines in his book that three great powers have their distinct benefits in Central Asian region and it is the foremost cause of the absenteeism of any main aggression in Central Asia among Russia, China and USA. In post 9/11 all three powers have become able to attain some of their purposes in the region. USA have become able to station its military troops in Central Asia and to handle the insurgency in Afghanistan by using the land of Central Asian countries by launching supply lines for its troops which are present in Afghanistan. The nascent states were not established economically and politically. Their connections with other states were dependent on the benefits and spirit of other countries rather than Central Asian state. (Rashid, 2010).

In the mid of 1990s, CARs have tried to expand its foreign policy and the power of Central Asian countries have been rising for the last few years. USA, China

and Russia started to take interests in Central Asia by using the tool of globalization and modernization.

New Great Game has three aspects. These are geo-strategic, geo economic and geo political.

### **Geo-Strategic Dimension**

It rotates around the numerous strategies and security interests of Great powers who are involve in the region in order to pursue their vital strategic interests. It is connected with diverse strategic strategies of Great powers to sustain domination in Central Asia.

### **Geo-Economic Dimension**

This dimension connected to the tussle of Great powers to occupy the vast energy reservoirs of Central Asian countries and also protected its energy supplies in near future.

### **Geo-Political Dimension**

It includes the policies and role of Central Asian countries to strengthen their position in the world politics. The huge energy reservoirs and geo-strategic site of Central Asia will define their place and part in the scope of world politics.

All these three dimensions are inter-connected and inter-related as the development and growth of one dimension will disturb the rests.

Nicolas de Pedro defines that Central Asian states are emerging as a significant hub for Europe due to four reasons:

- It is a cradle of coercions which might disturb Europe.
- It has plenty of energy resources.
- It is a hub of ongoing competition where the interests of China, Russia and America clash.
- It has border's proximity with Afghanistan.

Presently, the interests of great powers especially China, USA, and Russia in Central Asia have prolonged. It has become visible option for Great powers in order to secure their interests. For USA, Central Asian region is a valuable supply center for its war efforts in Afghanistan. From the point of view of Russia, it is also very important as it wants to raise its political influence in Central Asia. For

China, it is a hub of energy and a critical mate for developing the restless Xinjiang province in the Middle Kingdom's west. These activities and the ongoing competition of the great powers in Central Asia is known as New Great Game. (Cooley, 2012).

Kurecic explains that this New Great Game was started after 9/11. (Kurecic, 1999). But unlike the great game which was being played between British and Russian empires in the 19<sup>th</sup> century where Central Asian states were just the pawn of the game and they had no practical role, now Central Asian states are more active in New Great Game. "The Central Asian governments are working to use renewed external involvement to their sovereign advantage, fending off disruptive demands and reinforcing their political control at home". (Cooley, 2012).

"The Great Game is not a fun anymore. The term "Great Game" was used by nineteenth-century British imperialists to describe the British-Russian struggle for position on the chessboard of Afghanistan and Central Asia – a competition with limited players, mostly limited to intelligence forays and short wars fought on horseback with rifles, and with those living on the chessboard largely bystanders or victims. More than a century later, the game continues. But now, the number of players has exploded, those living on the chessboard have become involved, and the intensity of the violence and the threats it produces affect the entire globe". (Rashid, 2010).

Although New Great Game is dissimilar from the great game yet the key components are the identical as were in great game i.e. power, security and wealth. (Aman, 2014).

Younglouning points out that New Great Game is not for the fulfillment of vivacious interests of great powers. It is for to organize them to cope with the rising challenges of globalization by taking part in international regionalization. Regional integration is the one form of globalization (Younglouning, 2008).

According to Mackinder heartland theory that control the Eurasia will ultimately lead towards the control of the world. The great powers Russia, China and US wants to keep holds over the region. They are using different tactics in order to ensure their strategic interests in the region.

In the wake of 21<sup>st</sup> century, an ongoing competition has started in the region. It can be called a New Great Game. Three great powers want to eliminate the role of

one another to pursue their own individual interests. Some other regional players like Turkey, Iran, Pakistan and India are also trying to enter into the arena of New Great Game because their interests are also at stake. Russia's interests in this region are strategic as well as economic. He wants to keep holds over the pipeline routs of Central Asia to ensure its rank in the world market as well as to ensure its economic needs.

China's interests in the region are related to security as well as economic and political. China wants to secure its province Xinjiang from the intervention of Islamic extremism. Moreover, Central Asia hydrocarbon reservoirs are much more attractive for China as it is energy starved nation. It is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest consumer of energy in the world. To meet its needs of energy, China depends on the energy reservoirs of Central Asia. It has strengthened its influence in Central Asia by giving loans and aids and by foreign investment and establishment of physical infrastructure. Central Asian states are more inclined towards China to eradicate "three evils" by China's grand strategy in Central Asia. US also need Central Asia for its war against terrorism. Moreover, it also fulfills its energy requirements from Central Asia.

Three great powers' interests in Central Asia have led towards a sort of ongoing competition in the region. All of them are trying to keep control over the region to gain their maximum interests. Although it is quite impossible for any single power to keeps its hegemony over the entire region completely. Therefore, they are using mini and divergent tactics such as loans, aids, agreements and building of physical infrastructure in Central Asia to ensure their presence in the region. This gave birth to ongoing rivalry among three great powers in the region. "Central Asia is too big and too remote to be controlled by one power center." (Kurecic, 2007).

The entire world is witnessing the increasing significance of the Central Asia. In this region, conflicting systems for world international order are involved in a true sense. Competition among the great powers will ultimately change the future pattern of the world politics. It's a battleground for the great powers to pursue their vital interests. "A battleground in which future geopolitical destinies may well be prefigured."(Blank, 2008).

Geoffrey Kemp considers it a great gamble rather than great game. It is not sure whether the interests of these great powers will be achieved or not. It is great gamble because of the unique politics and location of the region. Shahida Aman in her article emphasis that New Great Game has ended with no result as BTC pipeline has restricted the role of Russia in Central Asia. (Aman, 2014).

The concept of traditional geo politics of Mackinder has been converted into critical geopolitics in which non state actors is playing a significant role in changing the global economy and ultimately the multinational companies of the industrial world and other non-state actors are in the limelight to perform their activities by following the incremental model to establish their regime by expanding their tentacle to control the economies of different states. It is the need of the day for Central Asian states to liberate their foreign trade and improve intra-regional support. Regional collaboration must contain free trade, open markets, building intra-regional transport resources and joint ventures with diverse multinational firms. It will provide assistance to increase their economy and also help to strengthen their ties with other regional players like Turkey, Iran and Afghanistan.

Central Asian countries should also expand their economic and military affairs with other countries like Russia, Iran, and China to lessen the role of the US in Central Asia. Most Central Asian states are not rightly reliant on USA for trade or economic support.

The inner condition of Central Asian countries is growing improved as these countries have shaped a situation of cooperation and trust and among themselves. They enthusiastically welcome the financial investments of USA and China. India and Pakistan also have a chance to arrive in the markets of Central Asia. Other regional players like Turkey and Iran are also received their presence wholeheartedly in Central Asian countries irrespective of their cultural association and beliefs. Pakistan has also have edge to join hands with Central Asian countries for enhancing the economic conditions of itself as well as Central Asian countries. Pakistan has no geographical proximity with Central Asia; it is not capable to acquire maximum benefits. Peace and comfort in Afghanistan is obligatory to take advantage from Central Asia.

### **Pakistan and New Great Game**

The ADS (American defense strategy) offered by Obama on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2012 could be resulted as a change in the political scenario in Central Asian region. The swelling anxiety of USA about China in Central Asia is eventually leading towards the rising hostility between China and India. (Burki, 2012).

Central Asia is important for USA due to its war against terrorism in Afghanistan as well as it is its grand strategy to integrate the South Asia and Central Asia through energy trade, links and corridors. The increase of Taliban in Afghanistan is affecting the struggle of USA to assimilate South and Central Asia and it may lead Central Asian countries to establish bilateral ties with Russia. USA wants Pakistan for this purpose if it is unable to build strong and trustworthy ties with Iran. The state is quite advantageous for Pakistan as it will be helpful to take extreme benefits from the current scenario to take leverage from the West. (The Great Game, <http://news.bbc.co.uk>).

Central Asian states have gained suitable technology as well as foreign exchange. It is a matter of concern for Central Asian states to contest with western world and other regional players like Turkey and Iran. Pakistan is trying to enhance its ties with CARs to play its role in international politics. Quetta Plan of Action was outlined by ten (10) members of ECO and it will definitely pay a lot to attain vital goals in Central Asian region if it is applied exactly. Pakistan must play its cards carefully in the chessboard of New Great Game. Pakistan must be adopted the following steps to confirm its part in New Great Game and Central Asia.

- Internal steadiness is vital for Pakistan to gain benefits and due share from the Central Asia. Pakistan must fortify its inner solidity and security.
- Pakistan must try to guarantee the inner stability in Afghanistan as it is a transit route from Central Asia to Pakistan.
- The activities of religious and political parties in Pakistan must be patterned by the government and banned such parties whose actions are extremists.
- Joint economic relations must be recognized among Pakistan and Central Asian countries.
- Healthy opposition with Iran and Turkey must not be allowed to end up rivalry.

- People to people contact must be appreciated among Central Asia and Pakistan.
- Pakistan must build physical infrastructure for the landlocked countries of Central Asia to connect them the other regional players.
- Russian vulnerabilities must be remembered. .

### **Conclusion and Recommendations**

The competition and rivalry of great powers has enlarged the rank of Central Asia in the politics of the world and now it is playing a significant role because of its latent hydrocarbon reservoirs. Current chaos in Yemen and the participation of Saudi Arabia and Iran has fired the prices of Oil in the international markets. The insurrections in Gulf region have made it obvious that world must have alternative energy options to accomplish their demands in the contemporary era. Central Asian region is considered as one of the best choice for great powers and they are trying to intensify their power and using several scanty strategies for their objectives. Geo-political competition in Central Asia has appeared to be more figurative than actual. Despite the paradoxical or balancing nature of the three great powers in Central Asia, the basic and foremost attention of China and Russia is to stabilize the region by trying to cope with the domestic threats originating from Central Asia. In this region, the main interests of the three great powers are security and economy; they take little more interests in the genuine progress of the common public of the region. The role of regional player cannot be ignored in the region. India, Iran and Pakistan are also trying to enter in the region. The proposed TAPI gas pipeline aimed to bring gas from Turkmenistan to India Pakistan and Afghanistan. ADB (Asian Development Bank) is the facilitator in the proposed gas pipeline.

The emergence of these regional actors has become a serious menace for the great powers as their interests are at stake. The USA has inadequate aptitude or interest to turn into a regime patron but it may play a momentous part in determining the prospects for progress in Central Asia by manipulating the nature of economic and political reform, understanding that the interests and principles behind USA involvement are more stable and perpetual.

The convergence and divergence of interests among great powers are paradoxical in nature as regional future pattern of power politics is dependent on it .In the chessboard of New Great Game, China's strategic narratives are playing a very crucial role in order to secure its geo strategic interests in this region. China's presence in the region is old enough as soon after the independence of these states, China made bilateral relations with the Central Asian region. China's motives in the region are more extensive than USA and Russia. China's security concerns as well as growing energy demands require more and more involvement in Central Asian region.

Subsequently, Central Asian countries must try to fortify their links with regional players like Pakistan, India, Afghanistan, Turkey and Iran. The future of Central Asian region is completely reliant on its ties with adjacent countries. A New Great Game has on its way into Central Asian region playing by the great powers (Russia, China, and USA) in order to chase their strategic interests.

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