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# Examining the Position of Afghanistan in the New Plan of China's Belt and Road Initiative (With Emphasis on Media Strategies)

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## Abstract

Afghanistan is China's neighbor and with its location in the south of Asia, it is important for global players including China. Afghanistan participates with Pakistan in the initiative-way project. The main question of this article is that what are China's goals through the Belt and Road initiative through Afghanistan? This article explains the goals and actions of world powers and especially China in the political scene with the descriptive-analytical method and using the theoretical approaches of balancing, the international regimes and the interdependence theories. Afghanistan has paid attention to the role of foreign radio media in reflecting this issue. Based on the results, the improvement of the economic situation of the troubled Xinjiang region in the northwest of China, the stabilization of China's economic and commercial position in Central Asia, the development of China's economic influence in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and the revival of its traditional position is vital. China is on the Silk Road in the framework of a wide land and sea corridor. With West Asia and Europe, it is considered among the motivations and reasons for the formation of China's plan. Also, due to the competition with the big powers, China wants to minimize their role in Afghanistan and reach a balance of power with them. Therefore, the percentage of Afghanistan's confidence has come and the request for this plan is from Afghanistan.

**Keywords:** Afghanistan, China, Belt and Road Initiative, Foreign Media

## 1. Introduction

The fall of the Soviet Union, the independence of the countries in Central Asia, and the end of the Cold War era competitions caused the countries on the historical path as well as the trans-regional powers to try to create a new condition with the revival of the road. Among these efforts are the plans of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and also the program of the international transport corridor of the Caucasus and Central

Asia and Europe (Tracica<sup>1</sup>) with the participation of the countries of the Central Asia region, the Caucasus. The Belt and Road project of China, which includes three land (central), maritime (southern) and northern routes, is one of the most significant economic and commercial projects that parallel China's unprecedented economic growth in the world economy has been presented and with media and investment advertisements. The expansion of the Chinese has been followed since 2013. China is facing challenges in the execution of this project.

The conclusion of customs and preferential agreements, territorial and border differences between Afghanistan and Pakistan on the Durand border line and India and Pakistan in the Kashmir region, security challenges caused by terrorism and extremism, the existence of competing plans. such as the Russian Federation (Eurasian Economic Union) and the United States of America (the New Silk and Greater Central Asia), Turkey (Silk Road Plan) and the European Union (Silk Wind Action Initiative), Sinophobia in Central Asia, weak supervision and economic corruption are among the important challenges. d. Various countries and regions are under the influence of China's Belt and Road project, and one of these countries is Afghanistan (Kalji, 2017).

Throughout history, Afghanistan has been a gateway for many fighters to invade India. Due to its special geographical location and being in the heart of Asia, this country is located on the main route of trade caravans of the Silk Road. After September 11, 2001, when America's presence in this country expanded, with the increase of China's power and the traditional competition between Russia and America, this country turned into an arena for the competition of regional and extra-regional countries, each of which has its own They are the restraint and control of the opposite side. For China's influence in Afghanistan, it must gain the satisfaction of this country so that it can be a suitable alternative for these countries. According to John Mearsheimer, reaching regional hegemony is the only way by which China can fully dominate Taiwan and solve its other problems with Xinjiang (Mearsheimer & Brzezinski, 2005).

The intend of this paper is to look at the goals, reasons and times of the formation of the Belt and Road initiative of China and to explain the position of Afghanistan in this plan with an emphasis on the foreign media approaches of Iran and Afghanistan. The main question is "What are the position and benefits of Afghanistan and China in the Belt and Road Initiative"? The sub-questions are: "The nature, dimensions and goals of China in the belt innovation plan - what is the way?" How do other competing plans (America, Russia and India) intersect and overlap with the Chinese plan? What is the mission of Iran's international media, especially in the subcontinent and East Asia, and what media strategies can be offered? The main hypothesis of his research is that "China wants to reach a balance of power with other big regional and extra-regional powers, especially Russia, India, America, and in order to prevent the penetration of these powers and reduce their effects. The main rationale of this research is descriptive-analytical.

## 2. Research background

British sources have paid special attention to China's plan. "What vision is there for the Silk Road under the leadership of China and the Asian Infrastructure Development Bank?" (Esteban and Otero-Iglesias, 2015), "Chinese Road: The New Silk Road", (Brugier, 2014) "Innovation of Cloud Road Operations" A new evening in Asia Central" (Fedorenko, 2013), "Why does Washington need to coordinate with the New Silk Road around the axis of Asia?" (Kuchins and Sanderson, 2013), "Washington and the New Silk Road: A New Big Game in Asia?" (Najam and Humayun, 2012), and "China's New Silk Road to the Mediterranean: Eurasian Land Bridge and Return to Admiral Zheng He<sup>2</sup>" (Lin, 2011) is one of the English sources.

The articles "Geopolitical Basis of America and China's Silk Road in Central Asia" (Tishyar and Toviserkani, 2016) "Belt Band Innovation - China and its Impact on the National Interests of Iran and Afghanistan" (Khadaghalipour, 2016), Belt folds: the consistency of Heartland's theory (Yazdani and Shahmohammadi, 2015) "Innovation of China's New Silk Road (Goals, Obstacles and Challenges)" (Amirahamdian and Salehidoltabad, 2015) "Investigation of the positive aspect and dynamic necessity of Iran in the economic belt innovation" D

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<sup>1</sup> Tracica

<sup>2</sup> Zheng He

from the perspective of the Copenhagen school" (Yazdani V Shah Mohammadi, 1393), are among the Persian writings that introduce and explain the nature and dimensions of China's plan as well as other Russian, American and European rival plans.

European resources due to the fact that Europe is located in the northern end (the port of Riga and Lithuania), the central (the Silk Road economic belt) and the south (Silk Seaway), which provides the time for the increase of land trade. It provides rail and road between China and European countries. They have a relatively positive view of this plan. Midders of the Ummahs are the same as the newly redesigned. Each of the nomads, with the sake of their own, the most prominent, in these cases, the special position of Afghanistan in the belt innovation plan - media strategies and how to reflect the news of developments has not been specifically addressed.

From the point where in the previous researches I just studied the road, China's goals from this action and China's goals in Afghanistan have been discussed without connecting it with China's plan; This article is innovative from the political perspective and the goals that China has in competition with other players, with a look at the role of the foreign media of Iran and Afghanistan, which can play a vital role in its reflection. In fact, explaining Afghanistan's important position in China's plan and providing media suggestions on how to deal with this issue, this article is considered innovative.

### 3. Theoretical framework

In this article, a combined theoretical model consisting of balancing approaches, the international regimes and the interdependence theories are used to analyze the topic. The theory of international regimes explains the cooperation of states in the international arena and is optimistic about it. The concept of regime means a set of rules, procedures, decision-making and behavior to ensure and protect interests. This theory can explain the actions of weak countries in this region (Sazmand and Ramazani, 2018).

Equilibrium refers to a system whose main players ensure and preserves their identity, completeness and independence through the process of creating balance. This theory assumes that countries are more inclined to adopt balance-based behaviors in order to prevent the creation of another power as control tools.

The balance of power has goals including "preventing the emergence and establishment of a superior and dominant power, preserving the existence of the elements that constitute the balance and the balance itself, ensuring stability and international security, strengthening and maintaining peace." It is (Qawam, 111:2014), according to this, in theory, relations between states are based on power and national interests, and all states are trying to get the most out of the balance of power and secure their national interests.

In this direction, naturally, the states are in a process of confrontation and struggle, and each of them has a continuous effort to become and stay strong, which is in the form of a union with other states in such a way that the result is the union and coalition that prevents aggression and ensures peace and stability. In fact, the basis of the theory of balance of power is based on the fact that powers can be controlled and limited only by means of power (Alibabaei, 1991:236).

According to Morton Kaplan, the basic principles of power balancing are:

- a) Increasing the military power of the country for the purpose of intervention, not war.
- b) Using war in emergency conditions.
- c) Continuation of the war until the surrender of the enemy, not its destruction.
- d) Serious opposition to the superiority of each of the members (Kaplan, 2003: 162).

According to Kenneth Waltz, the two basic conditions for achieving a balanced system are the existence of anarchy and the other is the existence of control tools (Waltz, 1979: 126-127) which Must be collective be chosen The meaning of the balance of power is the assumption that all international relations are the result of national interests, that through gaining power, the states always seek to preserve it (Sifazadeh, 1993:103).

The existence of multiple political actors, the lack of a central power and project, the unequal distribution of power among the actors of the international relations arena, the constant but controlled competition and the disputes between the ruling political actors to gain value and the world's scarce resources and the understanding between the world's major leaders about the common benefit resulting from the continuation power distribution mechanisms are a necessary condition for power balance (Qawam, 1991: 61). Several basic components, including: polarity, balance, strategic position and perception of leaders, have an effect on the strategic behavior of countries (Moritzen, 1997: 85-87). Creating buffer states, forming unions, creating spheres of influence, competition or arms race, war as a last resort and intervention is one of the ways to balance power (Waltz, 1997: 103).

Based on the theory of interdependence, the main feature of today's international system is neither conflict, nor based on conflict and cooperation, but based on multiple interactions and interdependence, especially economic interdependence and It is technical and the destruction of the chain of order and control. In fact, the concept of mutual dependence can be found under the theories related to the general integration of employment, new employment and communication (Sazmand and Ramazani, 2018).

#### 4. Belt innovation plan - China's way

Two thousand years ago, when the Chinese Emperor John Jiank<sup>3</sup> built the Silk Road, this road was built for the trade of Chinese goods from the west to the east. In the current century, in 2013, the President of the Republic of China "Xi Jinping"<sup>4</sup> proposed a transport network consisting of roads, pipelines and infrastructure networks that connect China and Central Asia to West Asia and Europe. He proposed economic cooperation. Belt and Road Innovation Plan, which was discussed in the State Council of China in 2015, has a financial turnover equivalent to 21 trillion dollars through about 65 countries in three continents (Sheida, 2018) and more than 62 percent of the world's population, approx. 39 percent of It covers the land area and 30 percent of the gross production of the world. The road of this plan started from Shi'an<sup>5</sup> in the central region of China and after expanding to the west, it passes through Gansu<sup>6</sup> province and the two cities of Khorghas<sup>7</sup> and Urumchi<sup>8</sup> in Xinjiang<sup>9</sup> province. This road then goes to the southwest and after passing through Central Asia, it leaves the north of Iran, Iraq, Syria and Turkey behind.

After passing through Istanbul, it passes through Bulgaria, Romania, the Czech Republic and Germany, after that it goes to the Netherlands and finally reaches Venice<sup>10</sup>, Italy, which is also the end point of both sea and land routes. China will be (Brugier, 2014: 63). The sea route starts from Guangzhou<sup>11</sup> in Fujian<sup>12</sup> province of China, and after passing through Guangdong<sup>13</sup>, Gansu and Hainan<sup>14</sup> provinces, it reaches the Strait of Malaga in the south. After passing through Kuala Lumpur, it goes to Calcutta and from the Indian Ocean to Nairobi in Kenya, after that it passes through the Horn of Africa and goes to the Red Sea. The end point will be Italy (Jamshidi and Khatami, 2017:9). In May 2014 AD, the first phase of the joint terminal built by China and Kazakhstan was put into operation from Lian Yungang<sup>15</sup> port in the east of Jiangsu<sup>16</sup> province of China.

This terminal was put into operation with the capital of 64 million Chinese Yuan and as a part of the Belt and Road Initiative, and in October 2014, approximately 21 Asian countries wanted to join the Asian Infrastructure Bank (known as the Investor and Support Bank). in this project) as the founding members And they created a

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<sup>3</sup> Jan jiank

<sup>4</sup> Xi Jinping

<sup>5</sup> Xi'an

<sup>6</sup> Gansu

<sup>7</sup> Khorghas

<sup>8</sup> Urumqi

<sup>9</sup> Xinjiang

<sup>10</sup> Venice

<sup>11</sup> Guangzhou

<sup>12</sup> Fujian

<sup>13</sup> Guangdong

<sup>14</sup> Hainan

<sup>15</sup> Lianyungang

<sup>16</sup> Jiangsu

joint agreement for the establishment of this bank. This number increased to 56 countries in January 2015 with the addition of some other countries.

On March 28, 2015, the National Reform and Development Commission of China, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Commerce of this country jointly launched the Belt and Road Innovation Plan with the title of the joint vision of the Silk Road Economic Belt and the Sea Silk Road, which includes the principles, framework and priorities of cooperation (Shida Wakai, 13:2019).

#### *4.1. China's goal of Afghanistan's participation in Afghanistan's Belt and Road initiative*

In recent years, Afghanistan and the region have been exposed to new trends of trans-regionalism by the players. America with the "Greater Central Asia Plan" and "New Silk Road" in the north-south direction, China with the "Belt-Road Innovation Plan" and Russia with the "Eurasian Economic Union" plan are the leaders of regional integration. It is in the direction of goals and benefits they have come up with their own opinion. It seems that considering the implementation of economic plans in the energy and transit areas in the North (Russia), East (China) and West (Iran and Caspian Sea) by Central Asian countries, the expansion of economic plans with Afghanistan, India and Pakistan (southern route) is seriously on the agenda of the countries of this region.

Construction of Gas Pipeline (Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India), Kasa 1000 Power Transmission Line (Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan), Afghanistan-Uzbekistan Railway (Hiratan-Mazar Sharif) and Turkmenistan-Afghanistan (Turgund) y- Herat) There are important economic plans that will be implemented to increase the geo-economic connectivity of Central Asia with Afghanistan, Pakistan and India (South Asia). It is in such conditions and space that Afghanistan, as one of the important neighbors, has been noticed by the Chinese authorities. In 2014, China hosted direct talks between Afghan authorities and Taliban representatives and encouraged Pakistan to adopt a softer policy towards Afghanistan (Clarke, 2016).

On the other hand, Afghanistan intends to use the capabilities of China's plan to revive its historical place. Joining this plan can solve some of the problems of Afghanistan, which does not have adequate roads, railways, and air lines, and lacks access to the sea. Afghanistan is implementing a 10-year national development plan (from 2015 to 2024), in this direction, combining Afghanistan's national development plan with China's plan can achieve an important part of this plan. The government of Afghanistan wished to connect to this network from routes other than Pakistan. Ashraf Ghani, during his visit to China in 2014, asked for direct commercial connection between Afghanistan and China through the Wakhan Corridor. And the Chinese are willing to cooperate with Afghanistan in the China-Pakistan economic corridor. Afghanistan's agreement to join the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor at the Beijing Trilateral Meeting with Wang Yi, China's Foreign Minister, Salahuddin Rabbani, Afghanistan's Foreign Minister and Khawaja Mohammad Asif, Pakistan's Foreign Minister in December 2017 was announced.

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, which will open the way from China to the Indian Sea with the cost of 57 billion dollars, with the addition of Afghanistan to this plan, a branch of this economic corridor will be drawn through Afghanistan to Central Asia. The main challenge for Afghanistan to join this economic corridor is the not very warm relations between Kabul and Islamabad and insecurity in Afghanistan. Afghanistan does not officially recognize the border between the two countries and accuses Pakistan of supporting the Taliban group (Sheida, 2018: 23). India, along with America, is one of the main critics of China's plan and considers it to be a catalyst for China's hegemony and has warned that the execution of this plan is not transparent enough and that countries with weak economies will be affected by China's economy. India is using the Indian sea route to Chabahar port, Afghanistan and Central Asia. On the one hand, Afghanistan supports the Chabahar port project with India's axis to bypass Pakistan, and on the other hand, it relies on the help of its other western allies. In such a situation, in the direction of balancing and diversifying its foreign policy, Afghanistan is interested in using the economic and transit capacities of China's plan, especially in the context of the rail line network, and joins a plan that It can lead to Chinese hegemony (Shefahi, 2019).

One of the neighbors that have made efforts to ensure Afghanistan's security is China. China has come to the conclusion that the prerequisite for security in Afghanistan and gaining the initiative in competition with other players is to create the necessary infrastructure for the development of this country, which in the form of implementation of Afghanistan's security and accordingly, it has increased security in its borders. In addition, it will get the satisfaction of the Afghan authorities to achieve the main goal which is the same in the political scene (Sheida, 2018).

The Chinese authorities believe that with the passing of years, the cooperation and relations between the two countries will expand. With the establishment of the National Unity Government in 2014, Ashraf Ghani chose China as a good friend and met with Xi Jinping, and in this meeting, both countries announced their economic and strategic cooperation agreements, joint statement they pointed to the reconstruction of the Silk Road Economic Belt and reminded them that the reconstruction of the Silk Road Economic Belt is not only beneficial for both countries, but also connects the countries of the region and leads to the development of the countries.

From the point of view of the Chinese government, the participation of the Afghan government in this project to connect South, West and Central Asia is very important (Sheida and Kai, 2019: 23). China is ready to provide its assistance to the reconstruction of Afghanistan by making this country a partner in plan Belt innovation - increase the way. (alizada & bismellah, 2018:36).

China, through the Belt and Road Initiative, will reduce the presence and role of major global players in Afghanistan, which has a rich historical background in Afghanistan, and due to the lack of presence in that country, it is a balance of power. with them in the political scene of Afghanistan to achieve goals which are related to each of them.

## **5. Competition of different countries with China in Afghanistan**

### *5.1. The historical background of India's influence in Afghanistan*

India's long-standing relations with Afghanistan have caused this country to pay more attention to Afghanistan in its competition with Pakistan (Tamna, 24:2008). Due to the inevitable strategic competition with China, America has accepted the necessity of cooperation with India, and due to the lack of past history of conflict, lack of regional and global competition, economic needs and understandings. Razashi found it desirable to move to India in order to establish closer relations. (Dahshiyar, 339:1382). India is trying to invest, support and develop Iran's Chabahar port and more appropriate access to Afghanistan through Iran, as well as provide economic aid, political influence and increase relations with Central Asian countries. do not have access to the sea, the effects of the "Gwadar" port development plan in the state Pakistan's Balochistan has been reduced to a minimum by China, and this action of India is a kind of secret war between Delhi and Beijing.

By gaining influence in Afghanistan and establishing a consulate, India has increased its political influence and built the Afghan Parliament building, and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the opening ceremony of the new Afghan Parliament building during his visit to Kabul. In addition to this, India intends to increase the capacity of the Afghan army in the fight against terrorism in the region by providing military helicopters (Emirahmdian and Salehidol Abad, 2015). China has taken more effective steps compared to its Asian rival, India, and is more prepared to create a wider economic development period in the world. In terms of military and political competition, these two countries have had many tensions in the past 30 years, and these tensions have sometimes had bad and sometimes good effects in Afghanistan.

How much these competitions benefit Afghanistan, is something that requires a certain policy. Therefore, the creation of balance and balance between these two countries is by the statesmen of Afghanistan, who use them as the great economic powers of the region in the period of reconstruction and security of the country, and this balance of power is good. Manage. Otherwise, the destructive tensions of these two neighbors will create insecurity and weaken the national sovereignty, as well as negative use of Afghanistan's natural resources, and will have an irreparable negative impact on the Afghan economy. It will be left (Farzinnia, 133-119: 2009).

China considers terrorism and Islamic extremism as a great threat to its security, but so far it has not taken a practical step to eliminate the activities of these groups. In the way that China urgently needs security in order to expand the global trade market and obtain good economic and commercial opportunities, and this is only possible when it convinces Pakistan to fight terrorism in the region. The effort to spend will lead to the preparation of times China is investing in Afghanistan. Considering the view of Beijing-Islamabad and the conflict between the policies of Islamabad and Delhi, these different views of both sides on the internal dimension of Afghanistan may increase the difference between Delhi and Beijing. Pakistan and China are in serious competition with India.

Despite the flexibility experienced by India in the issue of Afghanistan, China uses Pakistan to challenge India and inflames the fire of negative competition among these two countries so that it can attack India. It mostly involves political-security issues. From India's side, it is pessimistic about China's Silk Road plan and has presented the Mausam<sup>17</sup> plan, which challenges China's plan. From perspective of Indians, this plan is a reminder of the greatness of India and the role of the Indian Ocean in trade, and it includes East Africa, Sri Lanka, South Iran and South East Asia (Amirahamdian and Salehidol Abad, 2015).

Due to the fact that China's Belt and Road initiative includes Pakistan, India's concern about this matter has increased and Delhi is looking for cooperation with the US Silk Road project, which is the opposite point of China's plan. Although China is trying to get India's cooperation in the execution of this plan, but due to its alignment with America's policies and not losing the initiative to act against China, the possibility of India's cooperation with China in this project is small (Zimmerman, 2015: 19)

### *5.2 Historical relations between Russia and Afghanistan and Russia's competition with China in this country*

Russia's serious goal in Afghanistan is to prevent the spread of instability, terrorism and narcotics to Central Asian countries and Russian soil. Many of the terrorist groups in this group of countries not only receive financial aid from Afghan groups, but their intellectual guidance is also under the responsibility of the extremist forces in Afghanistan. China's strategy includes the purchase of energy and useful minerals in Central Asia, Iran, Afghanistan, as well as large investments in these countries. It is clear that the Russians cannot compete with Chinese capital on their own, so in order to prevent China's influence, they announced the formation of the Eurasian Union, which aims to reunify the republics of the Soviet Union and reduce its role.

China's expanding economic relations in Central Asia and Afghanistan are of concern to Moscow, while all three countries are members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (Afghanistan is an observer member) and can implement large-scale economic programs. Also, they do not have the same opinion on the situation of the region and ways to solve problems. They all believe that the main threat in Afghanistan is terrorism, but they do not have the same opinion about the source of this threat. While Afghanistan and Russia consider the Taliban to be under the protection of Islamabad for its geopolitical purposes, China believes that Islamabad can play a significant role in the peace process. Considering the lack of withdrawal of international forces, internal problems, corruption and weakness of official institutions in Afghanistan have caused the Taliban to recruit better, it is necessary to engage with the Taliban and bring them into the political process (Amirahamdian and Saleh Doltabad, 20-35:2016).

### *5.3. America's presence in Afghanistan and the main conflicts with China's presence*

After the events of September 11, America's influence in Afghanistan increased dramatically. Afghanistan has the potential, with huge energy and water reserves, a strategic opportunity to take advantage of America's military, political and economic projects in the 21st century (Tamna, 114:2009).

China was against the increase of the American military presence and its long-term presence in Afghanistan, because it believed that part of the American plan in Central Asia and Afghanistan was a threat to China in terms

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<sup>17</sup> Mausam



of security and control of strategic programs. China's policy in Afghanistan has been aimed at driving America out and pursuing the peace process in Afghanistan. Claiming to fight with security threats and preventing the expansion of extremism, America has paid its presence in Afghanistan, while at the same time considering the encirclement of China.

Although America welcomed the increase of China's interaction in Afghanistan and believes that America's strategic interests have changed and considers China's participation in Afghanistan to its advantage, but the Afghan authorities believe that the media competition there is a conflict between China and America. From their point of view, both sides want to get Afghanistan's natural resources, because Afghanistan's resources are rare in the region, and secondly, there is the issue of America's military influence in Afghanistan, which is in conflict with China's goals (Rafi'i, 19:2013).

America's effort to penetrate Afghanistan and China's effort to prevent this issue has become one of the most important issues of Beijing-Washington. This issue has caused Russia and China to reach a substantive agreement. According to some analysts, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization with the presence of Russia and China has been an anti-American pact since the beginning, which has condemned the missile defense shield. China is not satisfied with the fact that Afghanistan is the executor of NATO's policies in the region, and one of Beijing's strategies is to distance Afghanistan from the West and NATO.

Meanwhile, the absence of China's strategy in Afghanistan, besides the expansion of America's influence in Afghanistan, is a new threat and should be prevented from the presence of the West in the country with policies such as peace in Afghanistan. In addition to the point of view of the Chinese, because of the unjustified face of America and the West in Afghanistan and the positive face of China, there is space for a more constructive role for Beijing in Afghanistan. Also, considering that Afghanistan has accepted Beijing to play a more prominent role in this country, the relations between China and Afghanistan have been expanding in the past year, and despite having a short and mountainous border with Afghanistan, Beijing He is sensitive about the developments in Afghanistan. Meanwhile, China's success in mediating between Kabul and Taliban can increase China's political influence in Afghanistan as an important player (Shafi'i and Salehidolabad, 25-4: 2016).

The Chinese are looking for access to Afghanistan's underground resources and reserves, and one of China's goals is to cross the road in addition to reacting to America's colorful role in Afghanistan, to access Afghanistan's natural resources and competitors. Hilary Clinton, the US Secretary of State at the time, presented a strategic and transit plan in 2011 before presenting China's Belt and Road initiative. (Clinton, 2011: 6) . America's Silk Road emphasizes the development of transportation as a main route, which is set against China's Belt and Road initiative. Considering its goals and positions, America has reviewed China's movements to the point where it is trying to create its own silk road, focusing on Afghanistan, against China's plan. America's plan will start from Turkmenistan and reach India by passing through Afghanistan and Pakistan, which plans to consider other transmission networks in addition to the transfer of energy from Central Asia to India through Afghanistan.

Another aspect of this plan is that if Afghanistan is integrated into the regional economy, in addition to attracting better investments and using its potential resources, it can prevent the excessive ambitions of China not only in This country is located in Pakistan and Central Asia (Amirahamdian and Saleh Doltabad), 33:2017). Currently, the communication between Central Asia is ongoing through this plan; For example, the electricity of Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan provides the majority of Afghanistan's electricity, and the rail lines between these countries were built by America. America has more than 40 infrastructure projects in the framework of its Silk Road in order to reduce the efficiency of China's Belt and Road Initiative.

Some parts of these plans were opened in 2015 with the presence of the heads of these countries and American officials, and the US aims to help the countries of the region for economic reconstruction, political development, and preventing interference with other countries. Barack Obama, the former president of the United States, has stressed the need to implement this American plan even more decisively. At the threshold of the US presidential elections, there should be an atmosphere on the need to strengthen the infrastructures and actions necessary to

follow and expand this plan with the aim of helping Afghanistan, Central Asia and preventing anti-environmental programs. According to the claim of the American authorities, China will reduce the innovation plan - China's way is nothing but It is not a burden to damage the environment, he emphasized. Trump's weak position in China's control in this region should be noted, and in order to support the US Silk Road project, attention and increased investment in this project was requested. He emphasized that in case of victory in the elections, the implementation of China's non-standard and illegal programs and the innovation of the belt will be prevented (Aarthi, 2020).

## 6. Conclusion

Based on the theory of balance, if China has a policy away from tension, America and other powers will imagine China's behavior as peaceful and will not compete with it. In this direction, China, which is considered one of the major powers, by crossing the road from Afghanistan, where it feels the presence of a superpower like America, wants to reduce America's interests in Afghanistan.

On the one hand, America needs Afghanistan to dominate the Central Asian countries and slow down China's growth, and on the other hand, China needs it to reach a power equal to other superpowers, especially America. Also, India's extensive influence in Afghanistan forces China to counter India's influence with Afghanistan's participation in the Road Initiative, on the other hand, Russia wants to compete with global powers and China. It is the control of each of them. Due to the increase of China's economic power compared to Russia, the Russians are trying to prevent the increase of China's power in Afghanistan and accordingly they want more power in Asia and a serious competition with China.

In order to neutralize the power of regional and extra-regional competitors and reach a balance of power with these players, China wants to control their influence on the surrounding areas, especially Afghanistan. It can be analyzed in the light of the theory of interdependence, how China provides and supports the innovation belt against its ideological values. China seems to believe that the new model of international relations should be based on mutual respect, equality, justice, cooperation and mutual benefit. China's plan includes the countries located on the historical route of the Silk Road, and in this regard, it is very much in line with the goals and interests of the regional countries, especially Iran and Afghanistan, and strengthening their transit role. It is a region.

In this article, looking at Afghanistan, the hidden competition between China-America, China-Russia and China-India, each of which pursues specific goals, was discussed. China is a rival of major world powers. Therefore, India, the neighbor of this country and the United States of America, has played a greater role in the neighboring country of China, namely Afghanistan, with the green light of America. Russia, another rival of China in Afghanistan, is an active player in this country. America now wants to restrain China and prevent this country from reaching the position of superpower. America's long-term presence in Afghanistan has turned into a major challenge in China's foreign policy. Therefore, China's intervention in Afghanistan in the form of Belt and Road initiative will be an important component in the new geopolitical game. Although apparently there is some kind of cooperation between all four powers in the fight against extremism and terrorism, but this cooperation is aimed at taking a leading role in the balance with other powers.

The integration of the strategies of these actors means that the Afghan government will be under the influence of the influence of the great powers in order to maintain balance and balance, the powers that want their influence in the field of security and support of their partners. to maximize (the Chinese-Russian company and the American company - India). The existence of competition between these forces means that the weakening of each of them means the strengthening of the other actor. China and Russia are against the presence of America and India in Afghanistan; Therefore, China and Russia are trying to achieve the balance of power between America and India with beneficial cooperation.

Since Afghanistan does not have the ability to control any of them, by adopting the right policy, it can cooperate with each of them and ensure its benefits and interests with vigilance. America and other world powers, which

are worried about the power of Beijing, are trying to continue and expand their presence in vital areas such as Afghanistan. Iran and Afghanistan are considered a central element in China's Belt and Road initiative. The conclusion of the 25-year cooperation program between Iran and China, the increase of trade relations between Iran and China vis-a-vis the West, including in the energy field, the special geographical location of Iran in terms of moving goods and crossing oil and gas pipelines. A short journey to Europe and the Persian Gulf Iran's land route is a major advantage in the global economy.

The North-South Corridor project is a unique economic and commercial opportunity for Iran; On the one hand, in order to strengthen and transport transit goods in a short time with less cost and more safety, the construction of Chabahar-Sarakhs railway line is considered necessary. Also, placing Chabahar port on the route of the North-South transit corridors and as a result of establishing the transit connection between the countries of Russia, Eastern Europe, Central Europe, Northern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus on the one hand, and South Asia on the other hand, Far East, Oceania and the countries bordering the Persian Gulf on the one hand Another, it is considered as an outstanding advantage for Iran. Due to the shortness of the route in the north-south corridor and the provision of facilities and infrastructures and the provision of extensive facilities in different parts of the transport, Iran's route has many attractions for the transit of goods. it is

## 7. Media Strategies

Compared to the plans of other powers, China's plan is to some extent securing the interests of Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan, but so far, a specific legal framework for the plan has not been agreed upon between Iran and China. The position of Iran in comparison with Pakistan in China's plan is not clear. Unlike Pakistan, where different Silk Road projects are clearly drawn on the map, and a separate line of credit is also provided for each of the projects, the position of Iran and Afghanistan is in China's innovative road. It is suggested that the dimensions of this issue be explained in the programs related to China's Belt and Road Initiative in foreign media. News reports, productions and expert roundtables with the presence of Chinese, Pakistani, Afghan and Iranian experts will be prepared to introduce and explain the capabilities. Among the attractive ideas is the programming that can be considered in the Chinese, Dari and Pashto radio sections.

Explaining the mutual cooperation capabilities of Iran, Afghanistan and the countries of the region in the context of China's plan, especially in the context of land and rail communication corridors and the connection of the Central Asian region to Turkey and Europe, the Persian Gulf and Oman Sea is one of the programs that can be included in the agenda. In the media programs and negotiations with the Chinese side, through generalizations and drawing a specific map of the location of Iran and Afghanistan in the land and sea routes, and also assigned credit for each of the plans.

According to the published documents, only one of the drawn corridors will pass through the north of Iran, and this corridor also has alternative (rival) routes from the Caspian Sea route; Therefore, it is suggested that the role of Iran in different corridors becomes prominent and media. Considering the conclusion of the 25-year cooperation plan between Iran and China, there should be appropriate media coverage on the issue of not mentioning the name of Iran in the official documents until the time to include the name of Iran in the official documents of the Chinese plan. Also, I would like to point out the traditional position of Iran as the main part of the historical road, and this is the point that China's plan does not consider the historical and traditional position and the current geopolitical and transit situation of Iran, which is a bridge of communication. It is east and west, it cannot achieve expected and desired success. It is necessary to emphasize the participation of Iran in the development, planning and continuation of China's plan.

In Chinese, Dari and Pashto radios, a special emphasis is placed on joint cooperation with China for the development of the railway network of Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan, and the use of Iran's media capabilities to reduce the differences between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Afghanistan and the priority of aligning with China's plan to counter America's and India's plans And Russia should be expressed more and more. In the process of preparing news reports, documentary programs and roundtables related to China's plan, literature and poems

related to the history of the Transylvanian River, the historical, cultural and social role of the Silk Road in cultural exchange are appropriate. And the idea will be used.

In this direction, the position of the Silk Road next to Nowruz cultural area as a part of the common and intangible heritage is supported by UNESCO and its role in creating the unity of the regional nations and the constructive role of Iran in ensuring security. The path of China's plan should be emphasized through the fight against terrorism and extremism. And try to convey this to the target audience as one of the important reasons why Iran cannot be left out of the economic and transit plans of the region. America's Silk Road plan does not include Iran, the negative effects of Iran's removal from regional relations should be noted in the foreign media, especially the English-language broadcast network and Chinese and Russian radios.

In this regard, it should be emphasized that the increase of independent political units of the region will have beneficial results for each of these players. It has been shown that the intervention of the American investor in the region's equations will cause damage to the countries of these regions in the long term, and considering China's geographical political position and the advantage of being a neighbor to the countries of the region, China will be accompanied by success. The formation of the tripartite mechanism of Iran-Afghanistan-India for the development of Chabahar port is of high economic and strategic importance. With regard to India-China and India-Pakistan relations, in the media direction of Indian, Chinese, Dari and Pashto radios, attention should be paid to this issue, and to compare the trilateral mechanism of Iran-Afghanistan-India with the development of Gwadar port in Pakistan or China's prevention plan. The preparation of a radio and television documentary with the topic "Iran's past and present role and position in the historical path of the silk" is one of the media needs, especially on the PressTV network. In this regard, it is important to use the existing documents and other works related to the Silk Road and Iran's role in it through translation in foreign television and radio networks.

Preparing news reports and talk shows with the presence of Chinese experts in relation to "Iran's role in China's plan" is one of the needs of the media, which, in addition to broadcasting on Chinese radio and television. And, Dari and Pashto radio, Indian radio and Russian radio as well. Preparation of news and production reports on the status and capacity of free zones and Iranian ports in the Caspian Sea and Oman (with emphasis on Chabahar port) and the Persian Gulf and its role in China's plan, in the work order of all Bronmer networks. It will be specially placed in the Chinese and Prestige section.

It is useful to publicize the cultural diplomacy and interactions and communications of Iran's elites and scientific centers, universities and studies with the countries of the region in the revival of the Silk Road. In this way, we can expect the correction of wrong mindsets, perceptions and stereotypes, and realistic recognition and awareness of our country's capacities and talents at the level of "official diplomacy" in the innovation of China's way.

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