Epistemology of Globalization in Contemporary World and its Socio- Economic Effects

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Abstract

Globalization is a phenomenon in which the world has become a global village. The world societies have become inter-connected with each other. This phenomenon has impacted the social, cultural, traditional, economic, technological, and political spheres of states. The concepts of common market economy, borderless trade, and development in science and technology have brought the states together in a system of common interests and benefits. However, as according to the realist perspective, globalization has not been able to diminish the state sovereignty and identity of states. The future of globalization is also going to be restricted to this factor and the establishment of borderless society cannot be foreseen in the near future.

Keywords: Globalization, Human Capital, Muslim World, Pakistan, Future

Introduction

Human beings are social and bonded through relations and interactions with each other. Due to growing communications and interdependence, people have come closer to form a globalized world. This globalization is not new and has developed over time. The social, economic, cultural, and media interactions have helped reciprocation of ideas across the globe. The world has assumed itself as a "global village" where governments, international organizations, and people are together and share their ideologies and interact with each other. With globalization, the local interactions have turned to international because internationalized the stakes have interconnectedness through technology has diminished the barriers of borders and space. This has given globalization the multifaceted aspects where it is not limited to uni-dimensional spread. This phenomenon is also not limited to a single portion of the world with technological development; rather it is a universal phenomenon having its effects in each and every corner of the world. The only difference is the level of globalization effects in a particular part of the world.

The globalization as a concept has been associated with the word "globalize" which means "make worldwide in scope". As the time passed diverse senses of globalization emerged and the most common one is global economy. From the 1980s, the phenomenon of globalization has gained widespread recognition with the advancement of the communication technology especially the revolution caused by the internet. The globalization is in fact a way of shrinking the world, making the distances smaller and

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moving the things closer. It benefits the individuals on one side of the worlds to have an access to the individuals in other side of the globe. The technological interaction has revolutionized the societies all over the world. This phenomenon has developed at a very fast speed. So it is very difficult to define globalization in a single term or dimension. The definition of globalization is also globalized.

Globalization has happened in all the dimensions whether social, political, economic or technology. The social interaction is the primary source of its spread which leads to the other dimensions. Anthony Giddens has commented that it is the enrichment of social relations across the world.² Additionally, Roland Robertson has taken psycho-social approach which implies that globalization is not only enhancing the interconnectedness but it has also given consciousness to the world as a single place.³ Martin Albrow, a renowned sociologist, suggests that the globalization phenomenon corresponds to the integration of people of the world in such a way that they can act as a single world leading to a single globalized society.⁴

The economic interaction follows the social interaction. The scholars have defined the economic interaction of the states based on the globalization of ideas relating to economic and technological development. Rosabeth Kanter has termed that globalization has provided access of ideas and products in all places at the same time has made it a global shopping mall.⁵ According to Thomas Friedman, The motivating idea at the back of globalization is capitalism based on free trade and economy which leads to the flourishing economy. 6 He further contends that globalization has its own rules for economy - that revolve around deregulating, opening, and privatizing economy. The increase of capitalism based free-market globally also correspond to economic globalization. According to Chesnais, by the end of 20th century, the examination of capital in globalization was started with relation to finance. In the financial terms of capital, the globalization happens when there is mobility of capital; the one in which

¹ Globalization, Available at http://dictionary.sensagent.com/GLOBALIZATION/en-en/

² David Charles Lewis, Karl Moore, *The Origin of Globalization* New York: Routledge, 2010, xiii.

⁴ Sheila L. Croucher, Globalization and Belonging: The Politics of Identity in a Changing World USA: Rowman & Littlefield, 2004, 10.

⁵Umi Zaidi, "Globalization," http://www.studymode.com/essays/Globalization-1781657.html David John Farmer, Globalization of Unequal National Economies: Players and Controversies New York: M.E. Sharpe, 2005, 23.

⁷ Halperin, J. T. Siegle, and M. M. Weinstein, *The Democracy Advantage: How Democracies* Promote Prosperity and Peace New York: Routledge, 2005.

internationalization of markets is highly developed through flow of capital from one market to the other.8

The globalization in technology has rendered the world as a network society where economy flow has two distinct characteristics; the structure flow and global flow of capital. The globalization has made both these characteristics easy to communicate. The economic structures have been easy to adopt for countries where they were not previously practiced. The institutions corresponding to a particular structure of economy have been established across the globe like banking systems and investment organizations. Secondly, the global flow of capital means that whichever the structure of economy may be, the capital flow is never hindered. However, this has made the economic system complex. The technological developments like means of transportation, communication, and shipments have made it more convenient for people to interact and progress. It has flourished research and development in the field of science and technology.

An international political system has evolved due to globalized thinking about the state affairs where common good and interdependence in the form of common interests, either social, economic, political, and military, are ever increasing.9 Democracy has emerged as the popular system of governance owing to the globalized understanding of fundamental freedom of rights and privileges of people as endorsed by the democracy. The international political thought has been based on the concepts of commonality and freedom.

Globalization is a multifaceted phenomenon and requires detailed elaborations for understanding. However, this study is intended to understand the fundamental concepts of the phenomenon through theoretical explanations of scholars. In the second part, the overall effects of globalization would be evaluated. In the third part, effects of globalization on the Muslim World would be discussed while in the last part; future of globalization would be analyzed based on these effects and developments.

Globalization: A Theoretical Perspective

Globalization is the concept referred to the idealist school of thought who believes in the cooperation and peaceful coexistence among the states. However, realism presents a different picture of globalization with the context of formation of alliances and cooperation in international system.

⁸ Grazia Ietto-Gillies, *Transnational Corporations: Fragmentation amidst Integration* London: Routledge, 2002, p. 167.

⁹ Croucher, Globalization and Belonging: The Politics of Identity in a Changing World USA: Rowman & Littlefield, 2004, p.14.

According to realist thought, the interdependency among states is temporary and it corresponds to the national interests of states and it has nothing to do with the common good of humankind. A number of competing theories have been used to explain alliance formation among the states. The realist thought contends that alliance formation is due to the national interest of states in order to maximize their power or to minimize the threat in military terms. Realists believe that power distribution in international system motivates alliances or cooperation because when a state perceives a certain advantage or interest in a particular alliance, only then it subscribe to it. However, this is not the only determinant.

The structural realism contends that insecurity in an anarchic world make the states to maximize their security through self-help. Kenneth Waltz has discussed three core elements of international system; (i) the organizing principles, identification of unites as sovereign states, and (iii) relative power distribution mechanism.¹¹

The unbalanced power structure of the states and the security interdependence due to globalization is not the only reason states seek alliances, realists believe that economic interests, ideology, and regionalism are also vital for considering alliance formation among the states. Material gains are the primary reason for cooperation but the end goal is maximization of power. The modern realists focus more on technology rather than conventional strategy of having huge number of military. As the globalization has spread over technology, states are keener in cyber warfare, information technology warfare, and anti-satellite warfare, whichever is suitable. So according to realism, the security competition has only enhanced due to globalization of technology. Therefore, attainment of technology is in turn equivalent to power maximization and states want to develop such technologies.

Whatever the explanation may be, the phenomenon of globalization has revolutionized the modern state system may it be international system level, state level or individual level. The economy, information, and technology have made people and states interdependent. A state however

Dunne and Brian C. Schmidt, Realism, in *The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relation*, ed. John Baylis, Steve Smith, and Particia Owens New York: Oxford University Press, 2011, 91.

Deutsch, Sidney A. Burrell and Robert A. Kann, Political Community and the North Atlantic Area: International Organization in the Light of Historical Experience Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1957, 156.

¹² James D. Morrow, Alliances: Why Write Them Down? *Annual Review of Political Science* 3, No. 1, 2000,p. 63.

powerful it may be has to follow certain norms which have been developed by this globalized world.

The Waves of Globalization

The desire of human beings for progress and development has motivated them to move forward and discover new things. This desire is innate into human nature. Human life has evolved from living in caves to the modern societal structure. Man invented technology for its betterment which made the lives of everyone on this planet better. The style of wearing has transformed from leaves and animal skin to clothes of various qualities; methods of transportation has also transformed from back of a horse to ships and planes; and living has transformed from huts and caves to houses of many sizes. All this has been possible through hard work and research and development of new technologies. This would not have been possible without cooperation and interaction of people. The combined research and development has been responsible for mutual benefit of everyone. All the development is spread over hundreds of years and it did not happen overnight. The process has followed generations after generations to the global level.

Science has helped man to search the truth and reality of everything. It covers group of vast subjects dealing with chemistry, physics, biology, mathematics, and computer. The research conducted in the field is referred to as the scientific research. Scientific research helps investigate the facts on the basis of experiments. Through these experiments and research, new techniques have been developed to solve the problems related to all the fields like medical, engineering or any other technical issues. The methods of scientific research have developed over the years. In the 1600s BC, incredibly basic methods of analysis and research were taken in science as at that time it was at its very early stages. The basis and foundations of scientific understanding had developed with the Scientific Revolution. The application of science developed into professionalized and institutionalized manner during the 19th century.

The investments in the field of science and technology have been on the increase in developed countries as well as the developing countries. The interaction between the states regarding research and development in agriculture, biological sciences, medical, space, environment science, life sciences, physics, biology, nanotechnology and information technology. By the pace of development through science and technology, states have realized

¹³ "What Is Scientific Research? Definition and Meaning." BusinessDictionary.com. Accessed December 16, 2018. http://www.businessdictionary.com/definition/scientific-research.html#ixzz2HUiCSUg5.

that investment in research and development would keep them up with the other states and they would not lag behind the world. The competition has been ever increasing among the states. The more the states develop their technology, the more powerful they become.

Innovation, especially in technology, is essential for human life and the man strives for it. It not only increase productivity of work but also helps to boost the economy of a state. Development in science and technology has a direct relationship with the economic development of a country. The social development follows the social services research. The developed the social services, equally developed would be the society. The societal values are best protected through the gradual development of services. If social services mechanisms are not indigenously developed or in other words they are based on foreign model, it is essential that it would depict the social values of the state whose services are being used. This has been the problem with the media across the world.

Scholarly Debates

Scholars have studied the phenomenon of globalization through different aspects. Some of the scholarly debate is discussed below.

Ronald Robertson (1938)

Ronald's Robertson's approach is centered on culture and theory of sociology. It is multi-dimensional, multifaceted, and coherent. He introduced the new thought of globalization as he considers the universe as a whole, going afar usual differences between local and international, and between the particular and the worldwide. He also conceptualized globalization as "the interpenetration of the particularization of universalism and universalization of particularization". ¹⁴ The development around the world in all the spheres is being generalized due to globalization. Furthermore, the development in a particular field is also getting universalized due to globalization. For example, the research and development policies are being universalized across the world in the education system.

David Held (1951)

David Held has written or edited numerous books on democracy, democratization, globalization, global governance and global policy. He has

 $^{^{14}}$ Habib ul Haq Khondker, Glocalization as Globalization: Evolution of a Sociological Concept, Bangladesh e-Journal of Sociology, Vol. 1. No. 2 July, 2004: 4.

termed globalization as a developing phenomenon which has different impact on different fields for different countries. Their impact is changeable and needs to be studied separately for different countries. In other words, the effect of globalization is not universal for every field of development and an insight is needed to analyze the change caused by globalization. ¹⁵ However, the spread of globalization has been universal from state level to global level.

A multilevel analysis is required to gauge the change in politics, social development, military development, and economic development. Held's approach is influenced by the new dimensions of recent communication systems and information technology, which is also remarkable in expansions of the social relations. There is also possibility to differentiate various historical kinds of globalization in terms of 1) the relations and connections to the extensiveness of networks; 2) the level of strength of these connections among the networking people; and 3) the effects of these connections within the groups or a particular group of people.16 Globalization works on multi-dimensional approaches such as the political, social, cultural, military, economic, technological, environmental and legal.

Anthony Giddens (1938)

Anthony Giddens is famous because of his holistic analysis of contemporary societies and for structuration theory. Giddens is of the view that globalization is changing all spheres of individuals' everyday life as the global social relations have been shaped by worldwide interaction despite long distances.¹⁷ This has led to the societies being greatly influenced by the globalization. Giddens has proposed four dimensions of globalization i.e. (i) the states, (ii) world military order, (iii) global economy, and (iv) overall division of labor across the globe. 18 These dimensions are interconnected with each other.

Firstly, the nation states represent reflexivity where they are sovereign and hold their identity within the global interconnectivity of globalization. The survival of their respective sovereignty is the top most priority. The nation state system believes in the territorial borders and autonomy of a state within those borders to exercise sovereignty. The other states are interconnected through trade, political and military alliances, and

David Held, Democracy and Globalization, MPIfG Working Paper 97/5 May 1997, Available at http://www.mpifg.de/pu/workpap/wp97-5/wp97-5.html#fn5

¹⁶ Ibid.

Anthony Giddens, "Globalization." Sociology Globalization: 19-26. doi:10.4324/9780429493089-3. ¹⁸ Ibid.

information technology, but there is a mutual recognition of sovereignty of states. ¹⁹ The globalization has never been able to diminish the state borders.

Secondly, the modern states possess far more destructive military power than before. This military power is complemented by modern weaponry which is highly destructive as compared to the ancient civilizations. This dimension is universal as many countries in the developing world who do not have the economic strength but they have the military power more than their economic affordability.

Thirdly, the global economy is concentrated within the capitalist states. Capitalism has flourished over regions and even across the globe giving immense economic power to the state that developed the system. The other states are the followers who benefit from the system but are not able to dominate the system. So the power of such countries is conditioned by the global economic system.

Lastly, the division of labor is an indication of the level of industrialization of the world. It indicates that which parts of the world are more industrialized and which are less industrialized. The labor is divided more towards the industrialized world due to availability of jobs, development of skills, and availability of raw materials. The states with the modern industry have the lure of labor and they have the capability to utilize raw material even from those countries which have the raw materials but lack in industrial base to support it. This has made the world more interdependent. The level of globalization and its effects are analyzed by taking into consideration all these dimension.

Effects of Globalization on the Muslim World

The world has gone through several economic, technological, social, and political changes over time. This change has been more abrupt in the recent history. This has been possible due to increased level of interaction among the people in the fields of trade, education, research and development, and the transformation in the political systems. Muslim world, despite its peculiar and unique outlook, has not been immune to this global change. This change caused by globalization has been varied in different parts of the Muslim world depending upon the level of development and interaction. On the basis of Giddens's model of effects of globalization, the change has been in all the elements: Firstly, the Muslim countries have retained their independent stature in international system. However, the globalization has impacted the domestic political system where the system of governance has

¹⁹ Anthony Giddens, The Consequences of Modernity Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1000.

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changed. The democracy has been finding basis in the domestic political system of many Muslim countries owing to the international pressures, lack of transparency in the running systems, and corruption. The Arab Spring in the Middle Eastern countries and the process of accountability in Saudi Arabia is the recent example of it.

Secondly, the military development has been universal in all the states in the world and the Muslim states are no exception. In fact, the sovereignty model is stronger in the Muslim countries because they have not been able to formulate any military or economic alliance at international level as the European countries have formed the European Union (EU) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

Thirdly, the Muslim countries are a very important part of global economy. The Muslim countries have huge amount of natural resources but they lack the technological support to utilize these resources indigenously. So the Muslim countries have been following the global economy and benefiting from it but not being able to control it. They have been conditioned by the global economic system. They have the most important geographic locations where they can control the global trade routes i.e. Iran has the strait of Hormuz where nearly three quarters of the world trade shipments pass.

Lastly, the division of labor has not been equal in all the Muslim countries due to the fact that they have different levels of industrial base to support its labor. In the Muslim world, the majority of labor is concentrated in the Middle East because the industry being developed in the region is imported from the West and Europe.

The globalization has impacted Muslim world in one way or the other. The impacts of globalization are termed as positive and negative according to the priorities of a country. The positive effects have been in terms of economic development, industrial development, research, information technology, and political interactions. However, the negative impacts have been seen in terms of destruction of social fabric by penetration of Western culture in the society through media and information technology. Some states have adapted to such changes while some are resisting this change. They have concerns about protection of an exclusive tradition in the face of universal pressure; preservation of linguistic clarity upholding the religious customs; protection of social associations; and finally, sustaining a possible individuality among the swiftly varying worldwide conditions.²⁰

[&]quot;Search Results for Globalization and Muslim Societies." Planning D-Day (April 2003) - Library of Congress Information Bulletin. Accessed April 16, 2018. https://www.loc.gov/search/?in=&q=globalization and muslim societies&new=true.

The globalization has caused the people to seek modern facilities and better job opportunities and standards of living, even in the other countries. This has caused migrations of people to other developed countries of Europe and America. This has positives as well as negatives. The positive is that the standard of living has increased and has created Muslim communities in every part of the world; however, the negative is that skilled human capital is going to other countries. According to the Pew Research Centre (PRC), USA, there are over 1.8 billion Muslims in the world that formulate about 24% of the world population making Muslims the second largest religion after Christianity. Consequently, in every part of the world, there is Muslim presence – in most cases, quite a significant one. 22

Globalization has brought about reliance on Western technology in each sphere of life. In terms of economics, Muslim countries have not been able to formulate a European Union like economic organization where they could regulate and perform transactions according to the Islamic based banking system. Due to slow pace of industrial development, Muslim countries are mostly consumer based economies which are highly dependent on Western and European economies. This has hampered establishment of a sustainable economy that could flourish without the influence or dependence of foreign technology. Due to the absence of a common economic organization for Muslim countries, despite being the second largest religion in the world, most of the Muslim countries have piled up foreign debt.²³

The globalization has also brought about several cultural and social changes in the Muslim World. They are adopting Western style of wearing, foods and luxuries, which is reflected in their modern standards of living. The latest technology is also an important tool for spread of globalization. It has been a source of dissemination of values and culture over the internet, media, and increased and easy sources of travelling. The internet, media and social media is all influenced by the West. So it is evident that Western social and political culture has to lead the international trends.

Globalization and Pakistan

Globalization effects are significant worldwide. It has impacted social, political, economic, cultural and military spheres of the world.

²³ Ibid

Michael Lipka, Muslims and Islam: Key Findings in the U.S and Around the World, Pew Research Organization, August 9, 2017. Available at: http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/08/09/muslims-and-islam-key-findings-in-the-u-s-and-around-the-world/

Khurshid Ahmad, Globalization: Challenges and Prospects for Muslims, *Institute of Policy Studies' Policy Perspectives*, Vol. 3, No.12006: http://www.ips.org.pk/the-muslimworld/1015-globalization-challenges-and-prospects-for-muslims

Pakistan is also not immune to the effects of globalization. It has affected in the following fields in Pakistan:

Economic Effects

Pakistan consists of varied economy where the public sector dominates major sectors of it. However, this trend is transforming with the foreign investments thanks to globalization. Pakistan's growth rate during the fiscal year 2016-17 was recorded by the World Bank as increased by 5.3% and is estimated to grow further up to 5.5% in the fiscal year 2017-18. Globalization has enabled Pakistan to excel in the fields of textile, agriculture, and industrial development. However, due to political and security concerns, there has not been much investment in the country to support its technological and industrial development. In the field of services, Pakistan has developed skills and expertise but lacks the industrial support to indigenize the technology. Many multinational companies have invested in Pakistan in services sector including large international food chains like KFC, McDonalds, etc. and the mobile industry. Pakistan has the potential to get more incentives through the interconnected world because it has the human resources to support the industrial development.

Cultural Effects

The culture of Pakistan is very rich as it has preserved and developed customs throughout 5000 years of the past. Our culture stems from the great Afghan emperors and Muslim Mughals dynasties who ruled the region for centuries. We have inherited the religious, social and cultural practices from these civilizations over the centuries. The globalization has brought about the inter-mingling of different cultures of the world together. People to people contacts between the states foster cultural exchanges and adoption of trends in the lifestyles. These trends are reflected in the culture through wearing patterns, cultural activities, media, and overall relationships.

The multinational food chains have gained immense popularity and the American brands like Pizza Hut, McDonalds, and KFC are located in almost every big city of Pakistan. The living habits and dressing styles have also got innovative according to the cultural invasion of West and East through TV and internet. This has also been caused by the migrations as well as the Pakistanis working around the world.

²⁴ Samina Ahmed, Economic Growth to Pick up Pace in Pakistan, says World Bank Report, The Dawn, January 11, 2018. Available at: https://www.dawn.com/news/1382184

Ghulam Ali Khan, Globalization And Pakistan, Some Realities, Al Azwa, Vol. 25, No. 33, June 2010, Available at http://pu.edu.pk/images/journal/szic/pdf_files/2-E-Globalization%20and%20Pakistan.pdf

Technological Effects

Technology is directly linked with the growth of economy and productivity. The developed countries control the technology because they have excelled on research and development of technology while the developing countries are only relying on the already developed technology by the developed countries. Although they have the natural resources, yet due to lack of technological development, they are not able to utilize these resources for their benefits. The Global Competitiveness Report (GCR) 2017-2018 ranks Pakistan at 115 in term of accessibility of latest technology index.26 It has moved up from 122nd position to 115 as compared to FY 2016-2017 according to the GCR.

The media in Pakistan has been very stimulating since the last decade, due to advent of private TV channels, independent press and the freedom of speech given to the media by the regulators. Social media has emerged as the most influencing tool in the recent years owing to its greater accessibility and the boom of smart phones in the local market at very cheap prices. In addition to that, the mobile phone companies have made it easier to get access to the internet in even remote places of the country. Recently, the introduction of 3G and 4G technologies for mobile phones and internet has revolutionized the usage of social media tools at a very large scale. Whether it is matter of depositing the utility bills, management of bank accounts, or booking a ride through mobile apps like Careem and Uber, all is done while sitting at home through mobile phone.

Innovation in the field of science and technology is considered as imperative condition for development of a country. However, a country can get the true economic benefit if it can develop indigenized technology. Institutional capacity can be increased through utilizing modern technology in day to day working. The utilization of modern technology is essential for sustainable development.

The Future of Globalization

For the future perspective, it is not hard to ascertain that globalization would continue to impact the world in all the fields transforming societies, economic development, and technical advancement. Many nations and cultures may lose their original face and transform into something new. The global trade and the international companies would find its way deeper into

World Economic Forum, "Global Competitiveness Report 2017-2018", World Competitiveness Index 2017-2018: https://www.weforum.org/reports/the-global-competitiveness-report-2017-2018

the societies and markets of the regions and states due to their commercialization and popularity among the people across the world.

However, that is not obvious that there would not be any resistance to globalization. Although world has become ever closer today, yet, according to realist worldview, the state sovereignty is never going to diminish. The borderless society may emerge due to increased people to people contacts, however, the state never want to lose its identity. The international political system would be more entangled and complicated enough to stop at a point of cooperation and confrontation together. A new competition for power may emerge and states seek political and military power.

The globalization is going to hold its relevance as well as the state sovereignty. However, the increasing level of connectivity and the research and development can contribute to the common benefit of all contributing states. The development of cooperation standards will be helpful in the achievement of scientific and technological objectives. Globalization has brought together friends and foes in an interconnected system. This interconnectedness and development is going to continue in future as well with every state benefitting from it while retaining its sovereignty as its priority.

Conclusion

Globalization has affected every sphere of human life including social, cultural, military, technological, and political. The politics, institutions and their structures, patterns of information, living styles, and even cultures are globalized. The distinguishing line between the countries and their identities is diminishing with the increasing development and similarity in the patterns of development. The European countries have become a singular identity despite historical rivalries. Their rivalries are transformed into positive economic competitiveness that benefits all. The good has become common and the threats have become common also. There is interconnectedness that has bonded the rivals together in a single society.

Globalization has also penetrated the developing world. The technologies, international organizations, international food chains, multinational companies, and the development organizations are there in almost every country. They have their own globalized way of working which brings homogeneity in the patterns of working. The technology, economy and trade have bonded the countries in a relationship where the benefit of one is considered the common benefit of the other. This commonality of interest is diminishing the mutual rivalries of the states.

However, despite all the interdependence, the realist paradigm stands relevant to say that state sovereignty is never going to be compromised. The states never compromise their identity in the international system. The cooperation lasts as long as there is common interest or as long as there is no threat. The military competition is relevant and the state system is divided into powerful and weak states. The power struggle continues and each and every state seeks to rise in the international standings on the basis of power and economy.

Pakistan is also part of international system and cannot be immune to the effects of globalization. It has affected the economic, technological, and social norms of Pakistan. However, globalization does not directly correspond to development. Pakistan has to adopt the technology and institutional norms in support of its economy, trade, industry, and political spheres. The political benefits are global as well as the political threats are global. So Pakistan has to measure the benefits and threats while developing its economic and military policies.