

Impact of One China Policy on ASEAN

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Introduction

China plays a crucial role as the second largest economy, a manufacturer and exporter of the world. This country is located in East Asia with approximate area of 9,596,960 km² and rich in physical diversity. The cardinal's point of East china and south china are surrounded by Pacific Ocean and three seas South China Sea in south, East China Sea and yellow sea in the east. The seas are prosperous regions of natural resources which have tremendous economic and geostrategic significance. Among these three seas South China Sea is a trade route that provides livelihood and food to millions of people also more than half of the worlds fishing vessels are using this sea. China believe on three policies for its national interest:-

- I. Foreign policy.
- II. One china policy.
- III. Expansionist policy.

China claims that the Foreign policy of china is based on the following objectives:-

1. Maintaining independence. principled in international affairs, determining own position and policies in accordance with the merits of each case and never yielding to pressure from major powers, nor entering into alliance with any major power or power bloc.
2. Maintaining world peace. China does not participate in the arms race, nor does it seek military expansion. China resolutely opposes hegemonism, power politics, aggression and expansion in whatever form, as well as encroachments perpetrated by one country on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of another, or interference in the internal affairs of another nation under the pretext of ethnic, religious or human rights issues.

3. Friendly relations and cooperation. China hopes to establish and develop friendly ties and cooperative relationship with all countries on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. Relations with other states are never based on social systems or ideologies.
4. Good-neighbourly and friendly relations. China has vigorously advanced friendly relations with neighbouring countries, worked diligently for regional peace and stability, and promoted regional economic cooperation. The nation stands for fair and reasonable settlements of border and territorial disputes through negotiations and consultations, including the offshore territory. Disputes defying immediate solutions can be temporarily shelved in the spirit of seeking common ground while putting aside differences. They should never be allowed to stand in the way of the development of normal state-to-state relations.
5. Enhanced unity and cooperation with developing countries. This factor has always been a cornerstone of Chinese foreign policy. China claims to attach great importance to the development of comprehensive friendly relations and cooperation with other developing countries. China claims to vigorously explored ways to engage in mutually complementary cooperation with other developing nations in the economic, trade, scientific and technological sectors, and have expanded consultations and cooperation with them on international issues in order to maintain the rights and interests of all developing countries.
6. Opening policy. China is open to both developed and developing countries and has engaged in extensive international cooperation on the basis of equality and mutual benefit to promote common development. China, the world's largest developing country and a permanent member of the UN Security Council, stands ready to make unremitting efforts to ensure world peace and development, and the establishment of a new fair and equitable international political and economic order based on peace and stability.

China tries to promote a One China policy and One China principle:-

1. It is a diplomatic acknowledgement of Chinese ideology that there is only one Chinese government.
2. Inside one china policy there is one china principle.
3. This principle states that both Taiwan and mainland China are inalienable parts of a single "China".

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4. It is a modified form of the "One China" principle known as the "1992 Consensus" that is the current policy of the PRC government.

In case of china this country shares border with 18 countries and have territorial disputes due to expansionist policy with almost all the countries. Here is a table which shows the territorial disputes with its border countries:-

Table 1: China and its territorial disputes

S.NO	COUNTRY	TERRITORIAL DISPUTE
1	Japan	Parts of South China Sea particularly Senkaku Islands, Ryukyu Islands are claimed by Japan and both countries are at loggerheads with this boundary issue
2	Vietnam	China claims large parts of Vietnam on historical precedent (Ming Dynasty, 1368-1644). Also, Macclesfield Bank, Paracel Islands, parts of the South China Sea and the Spratly Islands.
3	India	China occupies 38,000 sq km Indian territory that goes by the name Aksai Chin. It also stakes claim on Arunachal Pradesh and Ladakh. It was this expansionist policy that led to the recent clashes between the PLA and the Indian Army.
4	Nepal	China claims parts of Nepal dating back to the Sino-Nepalese War in 1788-1792. China claims they are part of Tibet, therefore part of China.
5	North Korea	Baekdu Mountain and Jiandao. China has also on occasion claimed all of North Korea on historical grounds (Yuan Dynasty, 1271-1368).
6	Philippines	Parts of the South China Sea are contested between the two countries. The Philippines took this to the International Court of Justice, where they won the case but Chinese did not abide by the order of the ICJ.
7	Russia	160,000 square kilometres still unilaterally claimed by China, despite China signing several agreements.
8	Singapore	Parts of the South China Sea are contested by both countries.

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| 9 | South Korea | Parts of the East China Sea. China has also on occasion claimed all of South Korea on historical grounds (Yuan Dynasty, 1271-1368). |
| 10 | Bhutan | Bhutanese enclaves in Tibet, namely Cherkip Gompa, Dho, Dungmar, Gesur, Gezon, Itse Gompa, Khochar, Nyanri, Ringung, Sanmar, Tarchen and Zuthulphuk. Also Kula Kangri and mountainous areas to the west of this peak, plus the western Haa District of Bhutan. |
| 11 | Taiwan | China claims all of Taiwan, but particular disputes are Macclesfield Bank, Paracel Islands, Scarborough Shoal, parts of the South China Sea and the Spratly Islands. The Paracel Islands, also called Xisha Islands in Vietnamese, is a group of islands in the South China Sea whose sovereignty is disputed among China, Taiwan and Vietnam disputes with Burma. |
| 12 | Laos | China claims large areas of Laos on historical precedent (China's Yuan Dynasty, 1271-1368). |
| 13 | Brunei | Over Spratly Islands. |
| 14 | Cambodia | China has, on occasion, claimed parts of Cambodia on historical precedent (China's Ming Dynasty, 1368-1644). |
| 15 | Indonesia | Parts of the South China Sea. |
| 16 | Malaysia | Over Parts of the South China Sea, particularly the Spratly Islands. |
| 17 | Mongolia | China claims all of Mongolia on historical precedent (Yuan Dynasty, 1271-1368). In fact, Mongolia, under Genghis Khan, occupied China. |
| 18 | Tajikistan | Chinese claims based on historical precedent (Qing Dynasty, 1644-1912). |

(*Source*:- www.indiatvnews.com)

All these policies make a huge impact on bilateral, economic and political relations of these countries with china. In this context the paper will discuss the impact on ASEAN countries. ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) is a group of ten countries that promotes economic, political and security cooperation. These countries are: - (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the

Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.) These nations are surrounding South China Sea which is significant part of their economy. For further clarification the map below shows the location of ASEAN countries around the South China Sea.

Thailand and China

China–Thailand relations officially started in November 1975 after years of negotiations. Since then their trade has grown from year to year. The China-Thailand first FTA was signed in June 2003 and came into effect four months later in October 2003. It was an “early harvest agreement” on farm trade alone, whereby both countries opened their agricultural markets before the broader China-ASEAN FTA comes into force in 2010.

At present, Thailand wants to double the bilateral trade with China to US\$ 140 billion by 2021. Thai entrepreneurs’ participation in the China International Import Expo every year; promote cooperation on farm products; and hold meetings of the joint committee and joint working panels on a regular basis. Both the countries are investing in various sectors of each other domains such as next-generation cars; smart electronics; robotics; affluent, medical and wellness tourism; agriculture and biotechnology; future food; and logistics and aviation. They vowed to reinforce the cooperation through human resource cultivation, technology transfer, use of Thailand’s Food Innopolis as an R&D venue, participation in China’s space programme and science park development. On digital, the cooperation will focus on cybersecurity, e-commerce, 5G technology, investment in digital parks in Thailand and the upgrade of connectivity in digital infrastructure, both through submarine and fibre-optic cable. In finance, Thailand and China agreed to promote the use of baht and yuan in bilateral transactions for trade and investment and promote fintech. For tourism, both the countries will promote quality tourism, tourist safety and tourism-related industries such as film shoots, ferry services and hot springs development.

Regionally, Thailand and China agreed to encourage the private sector to make the best use of the free-trade agreement between ASEAN and China, building connectivity with the Pan-Pearl River Delta, the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation, the Greater Mekong Sub region and the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy. “China is the world’s largest trade partner and one of the top 10 foreign investors in

Thailand,” For the first nine months of the year, two-way trade between Thailand and China topped \$45.71 billion, up 11.6% from the same period last year. Key exports from Thailand included rubber and rubber products, plastic pellets, computers and parts, and chemicals, while major imports from China were electric machines and parts, machinery and parts, home electric appliances, chemicals, and automobiles and parts.

Recently, the “Sino–Milk Tea war” on the Twitter has led to the participation of Chinese embassy. They referred to the quarrel as “online noise,” and issued a lengthy statement in Chinese, Thai, and English, stressing that the One China principle was irrefutable. The embassy’s statement stated that comments made by Thai users simply reflected their “bias and ignorance.” It underscored the long-tested friendship between China and Thailand, calling the two “one family.” Further, in a Thai-language version, it recalled the motto that “China and Thailand are not others, but brothers” (Chin Thai chai uen klai phinong kan).

Brunei and China

Similarly, Brunei is independent Islamic sultanate on the northern coast of the island of Borneo in Southeast Asia. It is bounded to the north by the South China Sea and on all other sides by the East Malaysian state of Sarawak. Brunei achieved independence in 1984, having been a British protectorate since 1888. On 30 September 1991 Brunei had become the last member of ASEAN to establish diplomatic relations with China. In 2019 China became the fourth largest trading partner with trade flow amounting 1.5 billion Brunei dollars. “From January to November 2020, the bilateral trade volume between China and Brunei reached 1.72 billion U.S. dollars, up 104.1 percent year on year, while China’s imports from Brunei increased by 415.2 percent. Though 2020 was an extraordinary year due to sudden outbreak of the COVID-19 epidemic, China and Brunei stood by each other to overcome difficulties,”

Vietnam and China

Both countries are willing to make image of diplomatic goodwill but there bilateral relations have never stayed on normalization point. Diplomatic breakthroughs on the maritime territorial disputes over the Spratly Islands and the Paracel Islands in the South China Sea have proven far more elusive. The South China Sea is a core interest of both Vietnam and China. Vietnam’s coastline bordering the South China Sea

is over 3,000 kilometres long. China, too, considers control of these waters to be of high strategic importance. Vietnam has tried to safeguard its sovereignty while also working with China in a spirit of “cooperating while struggling.” Despite their mutual lingering distrust, Hanoi and Beijing have created new communication channels including party-to-party talks, defence-focused dialogues, and a direct phone line for handling emergencies in the South China Sea. Even in telecom technology Vietnam is developing its own 5G network. Viettel, a domestic telecom company owned by the Vietnamese government, has partnered with Ericsson to create home-grown 5G technology, which passed its first test in Hanoi in early 2020.

Singapore and China

Singapore and China established diplomatic relations on Oct 3, 1990. Singapore has positioned itself as a strong supporter for China's constructive engagement and peaceful development in the region. It has engaged co-operation with other ASEAN members and China to strengthen regional security and fight terrorism, while participating in the organisation's first maritime exercise. At the same time, Singapore signed the China-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (CSFTA) on 1st January 2009. While relationship between the two countries stands strong, differences were experienced during numerous high-profile events, including Singapore's stance against China regarding the South China Sea dispute. Singapore stand on the dispute is not as a claimant to any disputed part of the South China Sea but is home to the biggest port in Southeast Asia, and has made clear its open economy which depends on continued free navigation in the area.

Philippines and China

The diplomatic relations between the Philippines and China was established on 9 June 1975. Since then, the bilateral partnership between the two countries has reached unprecedented levels in terms of political/security and regional cooperation, trade, investment, agriculture, tourism, as well as cultural and people-to-people exchanges, which have benefited the two countries and its citizen or people. Philippines-China relations have been dominated by the territorial disputes too in the West Philippine Sea, which has escalated since the naval standoff over the Scarborough Shoal in April 2012 and aggravated by issues of Chinese illegal occupation, unlawful establishment of infrastructures, and incidents of incursions and encroachment within the Philippines' exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Bilateral ties took a

downturn when the Philippine government filed an arbitration case against China under the United National Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) in January 2013 challenging the legality of China's nine-dash line claim over the contested waters. Although there is territorial disputes but both countries are cooperating and maintaining cooperation in other areas.

Myanmar and China

In 1949, Mao Zedong established the Peoples' Republic of China, which was formally recognized by the freshly independent Myanmar government. The early evolution of the relationship was informed by the concept of *Pauk-Phaw*, a Burmese term meaning "kinfolk" that Myanmar reserves only for China. Since then the two neighbouring countries have maintained relations. China became a close ally of Myanmar, especially when the Southeast Asian country was under the military regime in the late 1990s. Since 2018, with planned special economic zones, cross border railway links between the two countries and other mega development projects, Myanmar has officially been involved in Chinese President Xi Jinping's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), shaping future relations between the neighbouring nations.

China is the largest trading partner as well as one of the most important sources of investment for Myanmar. Official data shows that as of July in 2019, China's cumulative investment in Myanmar accounted for over 25 percent of Myanmar's total foreign investment. Unlike in the ancient times, now China's main exports to Myanmar are complete sets of equipment, mechanical and electrical products, textiles, motorcycle accessories and chemical products and its imports from Myanmar are logs, sawed timber, agricultural products and mineral products.

According to the Ministry of Commerce of China, total imports and exports between the two countries were only 11 billion U.S. dollars in 2004 but have reached nearly 168 billion U.S. dollars in the first 11 months of 2019. However, recently, the relations between China and Myanmar have faced some problems due to recent ongoing conflicts with ethnic Chinese rebels and Myanmar military near the border, as well as Burmese recent hostilities against Chinese. China's interests in Myanmar in the context of ethnic conflicts in the borderlands are in alignment with its long-term strategic interests.

Malaysia and China

The diplomatic relations between Malaysia and China began 1974. Both

countries are full members of APEC, and there is a sizeable population of Chinese in Malaysia. China was Malaysia's biggest trading partner for four consecutive years. And Malaysia was China's largest trading partner among ASEAN countries for five years in a row. In February, the Malaysia-China Kuantan Industrial Park was officially launched. In October, the two governments signed the Five Year Program for Economic and Trade Cooperation 2013-2017, the Agreement on the Establishment of the China-Malaysia Qinzhou Industrial Park and the Agreed Minutes on the Establishment of Joint Cooperation Council on China-Malaysia Qinzhou Industrial Park and Malaysia-China Kuantan Industrial Park Between the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of International Trade and Industry. The Penang Second Bridge undertaken by a Chinese company was completed. This has deepened people to people contact. On the other hand after signing of the world's largest free trade agreement — the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) — including more trade between China and Malaysia, and broad restructuring of Asian supply chains. They called the RCEP a milestone that would open more doors and grow the pie for member economies.

Though both the countries share strong economic relationship they are not without conflict . Malaysia has kept its differences with China discreet. The point of contention has been their overlapping maritime claims in the South China Sea. Despite repeated Chinese provocations— from large-scale fishing off Malaysian-claimed Luconia Shoals to harassing Malaysian energy exploration ships.

Laos and China

China and Laos established diplomatic relations on April 25, 1961, but tensions arose early in the 1970s and early 1980s when the ruling Lao People's Revolutionary Party (LPRP) chose to side with Hanoi instead of Beijing during the Sino-Vietnamese War (ASEAN-China Centre, 2010). The late 1980s saw ties warm as Laos began forging stronger ties with China and other countries as the Cold War ended. Laotian Prime Minister Kaysone Phomvihane visited Beijing in 1989 and Chinese Premier Li Peng went to Vientiane in 1990, marking a key turning point in the relationship.

Since then, Sino-Lao relations have improved dramatically, with China helping Laos in the Asian Financial Crisis, both sides establishing a comprehensive strategic partnership of cooperation in 2009. For China, Laos is a critical source of natural resources to power its economic growth, a crucial partner in tackling transnational security issues, and

a key ally in Southeast Asia through which it can advance its regional ambitions. For tiny, and landlocked Laos, Beijing offers the technology, money and manpower required to develop its economy and achieve its goal of graduating from the United Nations Development Program's list of least-developed countries by 2020. On trade relations China has agreed to eliminate tariffs on 97% of Lao products, meaning that almost all Lao exports to China are tariff-free, but sources in Laos fear that the new trade rules will only benefit China.

Indonesia and china

Indonesia was the first ASEAN country to establish diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China. However, after periods of swinging to the extremes; Sino-Indonesian relations were abruptly suspended in the wake of Gestapu, the Indonesian coup in September 1965. The regional comprehensive Economic Partnership is the free trade agreement signed by Indonesia and China with other countries on 15 November 2020.

Indonesia does not have a territorial claim to the South China Sea, but a section of Indonesia's exclusive economic zone that includes natural gas fields lies within China's "nine-dash line." Chinese ships have regularly entered the area Indonesia calls the North Natuna Sea, causing tensions between the countries.

Cambodia and China

The first historical diplomatic ties of China-Cambodia began by Zhou Daguan, a Chinese diplomat under the Emperor Chengzong of Yuan, through diplomatic expedition mission. He arrived at Angkor in 1296 and remained at the court of King Indravarman III until 1297 (Hingham, 2001). He was the first Chinese representative to visit Khmer Empire and he later wrote a detailed report on life in Angkor, *The Customs of Cambodia* (Rossabi, 2014). The book itself gives detailed descriptions of Yasodharapura, the capital city at the centre of Angkor, and as a source to understand historical Angkor and the Khmer Empire. At modern time, Cambodia gained full independence from France in 1953.

The first diplomatic relations China-Cambodia were established on July 19, 1958. China and Cambodia signed a first bilateral free trade agreement (FTA) between the two countries on October 5, 2020. The signing of the agreement signifies the entry of the two countries into a new era of comprehensive strategic cooperation partnership, jointly building the China-Cambodia community with a shared future, and of

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cooperation in the joint construction of the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road. Trade between the two countries was valued at over US\$7.4 billion in 2018 with China enjoying a trade surplus of over US\$6 billion. Through the FTA, the two countries aim to boost bilateral trade to US\$10 billion by 2023.

Cambodia in a way support China which can be understood by action it takes for China. As chairman of the 2012 Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit, Cambodia failed to issue a joint communiqué for the first time in 45 years, because the joint communiqué contained strong criticism towards China's actions in the South China Sea. A similar case of the joint ASEAN communiqué occurred again in 2016, in which Cambodia blocked a strong statement condemning China's actions in the South China Sea. In reflecting its support for the "One China Policy," and thus one of China's main priorities, the Hun Sen government refused to allow the Taiwanese flag to be displayed anywhere in Cambodia in early 2017 (Phan, 2017). In mid-2019, Cambodia was the first country in Southeast Asia to issue an official statement regarding the Hong Kong political crisis, expressing its unbreakable support for the "One China Policy" in favour of Beijing. Though it has dispute in South China Sea but this country would like to take care of it in its own way.

After taking a note or analysing about all the ASEAN region countries they all want to engage economically with china for their development and prosperity of nation. China is their neighbouring country with whom they share a common and significant area of South China Sea. It is understandable that they would never like to side-line China as it is major trading partner but these countries have different opinion and actions regarding South China Sea. ASEAN Countries want to maintain their sovereignty and their exclusive economic zone in the sea.

Significance of South China Sea

South China Sea is a geostrategic region which serves the economic interest of the countries which are surrounding it. This sea is the world's second busiest international shipping lane, after the Strait of Hormuz. Additionally, about two-thirds of South Korean, Japanese, and Taiwanese LNG supplies flow through this region. The SCS region contains potentially vast oil reserves that are approximately of about 11 billion barrels worth of oil reserves. However, much of the region's potential oil and natural gas reserves have been untapped and estimates vary greatly, as drilling for these resources has been discouraged by nations in the region. The UN estimates that the SCS alone accounts for approximately 10 percent of global fisheries production. On the

other hand, China estimates that the potential oil resources of the Spratly and Parcel Islands could contain as much as 105 billion barrels of oil. The South China Sea contains some of the world's most important shipping lanes. The main route to and from Pacific and Indian Ocean ports is through the Strait of Malacca and the South China Sea.

In the context of the South China Sea ASEAN countries have tried to resolve the issue but the conflict is still present in this area.

Conclusion

China is taking the expansionist step because it want to increase its economic activity and to sustain this economic activity it needs energy. South China Sea, island are a source of energy which can maintain balance of china economy in Future. In a way to secure its future energy needs China is claiming the South China Sea and islands. Regarding ASEAN these countries know importance of South China Sea for their future energy needs as well.

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