Title: Strategic Dynamics and Security Interplay among India, Bangladesh, and China in South Asia

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Abstract:

This paper examines the evolving international relations and security dynamics among India, Bangladesh, and China within the South Asian context. With growing economic and strategic interests in the region, these three nations engage in a complex web of alliances, competition, and interdependence. India and Bangladesh share longstanding cultural and economic ties, yet face challenges related to border security, migration, and resource sharing. Meanwhile, China’s increasing influence through the Belt and Road Initiative has reshaped Bangladesh's economic landscape, raising questions about regional sovereignty and security. India's strategic response, aimed at counterbalancing China’s presence, highlights the intricacies of power politics in South Asia. This study analyzes these relationships by examining economic partnerships, defense cooperation, and border security concerns, providing a nuanced understanding of how regional stability and security are negotiated amid overlapping interests. Moreover in this study there will be application of some theories including Realism, Dependency theory, Construction and Geo-political theory which will show the strategic interaction and security concerns among India , China and Bangladesh.

Key words : Strategic dynamics , Security interplay , geo politics and counterbalancing.

Introduction: International Relations is concerned with relations across boundaries of nation-states. It addresses international political economy, global governance, intercultural relations, national and ethnic identities, foreign policy analysis, development studies, environment, international security, diplomacy, terrorism, media, social movements and more. It is a multidisciplinary field that does not restrict students to one approach and employs a variety of methods including discourse analysis, statistics and comparative and historical analysis.

Francis Bacon mentions in one of his famous essays a quote of renowned philosopher Aristotle's statement that “Whatsoever is delighted in solitude is either a wild beast or God”. By addressing Aristotle's statement Bacon expresses that as a part of the social body humans can not survive separately and they are internally connected to one another. The same way, no nations in the world can survive separately because they are economically, geographically and environmentally dependent on one another. That is way,every country builds their relations with other countries by maintaining their own interests.

Geopolitics can be defined as a policy involving political, geographical, and economic factors or influences between at least two nations or groups. The term is usually associated with international and/or diplomatic relations and foreign policy, and its overall purpose is to benefit the interests of one's people and/or country. The general concepts of geopolitics have existed as long as humans have existed but have no clear origin point. Multitudes of geopolitical policies have been implemented throughout human history, and they have varied over central issues in policy as befitting the nations or peoples involved.Encyclopedia Britannica defines geopolitics as “analysis of the geographic influences on power relationships in international relations” and notes that it has come to be used as a synonym for international politics (Deudney, 2013). Technically all countries in the world have interconnectivity as well as dependency on one another that also happens because they are geographically aligned with one another.General

Encyclopedia Britannica defines geopolitics as “analysis of the geographic influences on power relationships in international relations” and notes that it has come to be used as a synonym for international politics (Deudney, 2013). Welcome to Gboard clipboard, any text you copy will be saved here.Asia, the world’s largest and most diverse continent. It occupies the eastern four-fifths of the giant Eurasian landmass. Asia is more a geographic term than a homogeneous continent, and the use of the term to describe such a vast area always carries the potential of obscuring the enormous diversity among the regions it encompasses. Asia has both the highest and the lowest points on the surface of Earth, has the longest coastline of any continent, is subject overall to the world’s widest climatic extremes, and, consequently, produces the most varied forms of vegetation and animal life on Earth.Geopolitics in Asia is shaped by a complex interplay of historical rivalries, economic ambitions, territorial disputes, and power dynamics. Bangladesh is a sovereign country of twenty million people. Bangladesh geopolitically has great importance to the world as Bangladesh is also necessary to get access to Bay of Bengal as well as Bangladesh is a gateway to the SouthEast . Moreover Bangladesh has influence in the world economy as Bangladesh is a growing country so it enlarges many opportunities like trade and commerce. Since Bangladesh shares the largest area of border with India as well as India is our neighbor country,so India plays significant importance in the geopolitical issues of Bangladesh.There is a saying in geopolitics that we can change our friend but we cannot change our. On the other side, Bangladesh has a bilateral relationship with China where both of them share the same economic interdependence.

Theoretical framework: Though this paper tries to answer the following question: How do India,Bangladesh, and China navigate strategic and security concerns?What roles do economic interdependence and alliances play in regional stability?.There is application of some theories that will enhance the way of understanding geo-political interdependence between Bangladesh and India as well as economic interplay among them.According to realism, states exist within an anarchic international system in which they are ultimately dependent on their own capabilities, or power, to further their national interests. The most important national interest is the survival of the state, including its people, political system, and territorial integrity. Other major interests for realists include the preservation of a nation’s culture and economy. Realists contend that, as long as the world is divided into nation-states in an anarchic setting, national interest will remain the essence of international politics.The theory of realism in international relations is a political theory that views international politics as a competitive arena where states prioritize their own interests over others. Realism is based on the idea that states are the primary actors in international politics, and that the world is anarchic, meaning there is no centralized authority.As he asserts in his main work, Politics among Nations: The Struggle for Power and Peace, first published in 1948, “international politics, like all politics, is a struggle for power” (25).Human nature is a starting point for classical political realism. Realists view human beings as inherently egoistic and self-interested to the extent that self-interest overcomes moral principles. At the debate in Sparta, described in Book I of Thucydides’ History, the Athenians affirm the priority of self-interest over morality. They say that considerations of right and wrong have “never turned people aside from the opportunities of aggrandizement offered by superior strength” (chap. 1 par. 76). Hans J. Morgenthau (1904–1980) developed realism into a comprehensive international relations theory.

Dependency theory focused on individual nations, their role as suppliers of raw materials, cheap labor, and markets for expensive manufactured goods from industrialized countries.Because of their overspecialization in a small number of commodities for export, the unchecked economic influence of external organizations, and political power wielded by local agents of capital, countries on the periphery of the global capitalist system continue to be characterized by high levels of economic inequality, low levels of democracy, and stunted economic growth.The dependency theory emerged in the 1960s as a reaction to the modernisation theory and trickle-down economic theory. Dependency theory was developed as a framework for understanding the reasons for the divergence in the development level between wealthier and poorer nations.The central assumptions of the theory include: (a) Underdevelopment, which is different from un-development, deals with the active extraction of resources from periphery countries for the benefit of the core countries (b) the world is polarised into two: the highly industrialised wealthy core nations and less industrialised poor peripheries (c) The periphery countries are poor because they are forcefully integrated into the international division of labour where they functioned as producers and suppliers of raw materials or repositories of cheap labour (d) Resource diversion is maintained through active collaborations of local elites and dominant states who share common interests (Namkoong, 1999). Kvangraven (2021) argues that most dependency theory is based on a superficial, incorrect, and incomplete understanding of the theory’s core assumptions.

Constructivism: Constructivism had been marginalized by these mainstream theories because it focused on social construction instead of material construction (Barkin, 2017). The turning point came late in the 1980s as the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War made people reconsider the explanatory ability of mainstream theories (Hopf, 1998). Consequently, a new debate emerged. Under this, the development of Alexander Wendt’s constructivist theory gained attention in academia and began to stand out (Lapid, 2007). Wendt published ‘Anarchy is What States Make of It: The Social Construction of Power Politics’ in 1992. In this paper he revealed the limitation of the concept of anarchy from the neorealist and neoliberal theories in explaining international relations (Wendt, 1992). In 1999 he further developed the theory in Social Theory of International Politics. Wendt highlighted the importance of shared ideas (knowledge) in international relationships in his theory. According to Wendt “socially shared knowledge is knowledge that is both common and connected between individuals” (Ibid, 141). First of all, Alexander Wendt pointed out that “the structures of human association are determined primarily by shared ideas rather than material forces” (Ibid, 1).Wendt explained that although he recognized the existence of material factors, these factors in his theory do not play a crucial role in his theory; instead he indicates that shared ideas are the most important elements in international relations. Wendt named his assumption as rump materialism (Ibid. 132).Constructivism sees the world, and what we can know about the world, as socially constructed. This view refers to the nature of reality and the nature of knowledge that are also called ontology and epistemology in research language. Under this, the development of Alexander Wendt’s constructivist theory gained attention in academia and began to stand out (Lapid, 2007). Wendt “socially shared knowledge is knowledge that is both common and connected between individuals” (Ibid, 141).First of all, Alexander Wendt pointed out that “the structures of human association are determined primarily by shared ideas rather than material forces” (Ibid, 1).

Strategic relation:Throughout the premiership of Sheikh Hasina between 2009 and 2024, India and Bangladesh enjoyed the best time in their bilateral relationship.In September 2011, the two countries signed a major treaty on border demarcation to end the 4-decade old disputes over boundaries.In 2012, Bangladesh allowed India's Oil and Natural Gas Corporation.From October 2013, India started exporting 500 megawatts of electricity a day to Bangladesh over a period of 35 years. Easing of Visa regime to provide 5-year multiple entry visas to minors below 13 and elderly above 65.During Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to Bangladesh during June 2015 as many as 22 agreements were signed by two sides.During Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to Bangladesh during June 2015 as many as 22 agreements were signed by two sides.

* India and Bangladesh share unique relationship, marked by cultural, linguistic, and historical ties. India-Bangladesh relations the unique ties are forged in shared sacrifices. India was the first country to recognize Bangladesh as an independent state and established diplomatic relations with the country immediately after its independence in December 1971. There is a saying in diplomacy that “ you can change your friend but you cannot change your neighbor”. That is why, having a good relationship with a neighboring country can bring huge opportunities for the country including economic, geopolitical and security concerns. As a result, Bangladesh is also trying to maintain a good relationship with India as Bangladesh shares 4096 km of border area. There are some important issues that prioritize both countries to have interdependence within them.
* Dynamic change of relation: India and Bangladesh relation have changed several times due to influence of different ruling parties.
* India and Bangladesh have a shared history, culture, and heritage. The people of the two countries are linked by strong cultural and familial ties, and there is a large population of Indian-origin people living in Bangladesh. There is always a similar culture, lifestyles, food habits, particularly among the people of West Bengal and Bangladesh. The similarity between Bangladesh and Bengal is that everyone here likes typical Bengali music, dance, drama, cinema, reading various novels in addition to diverse literature, arts, painting, and sculpture. Nurturing the culture is almost every family's tradition, whether as an extracurricular activity for a student or self-interest for an adult member. It looks like Bengalis understand, feel, interact, argue, and at last express the cultures in their daily activities. The two countries share many cultural ties. In particular, Bangladesh and the east Indian states of West Bengal and Tripura are Bengali-speaking.
* Historical tie between Bangladesh and India:The links between the republics of modern-day India and Bangladesh are civilizational, cultural, social, and economic. There is much that unites the two countries – a shared history of the and common heritage originating from the Bengal region, linguistic and cultural ties, passion for music, literature and the arts. Both of the countries were colonized under British.Bengal having been the first major region conquered by the British, and British India's capital having been established in CalcuttaDuring the partition of British India in 1947, the Bengal region was again partitioned based on religious lines,and East Bengal was transferred under the Dominion of Pakistan and West Bengal under the Dominion of India. East Bengal was later renamed as East Pakistan during the implementation of One Unit Scheme, after which in 1971, Bangladesh Liberation War occurred which resulted in its independence from Pakistan. The Indian Republic was a strong ally during the war, due to which it fought the Indo-Pakistani War of 1971.
* Border security and cooperation:Bangladesh and India share a 4,096-kilometre-long (2,545 mi) international border.There is active participation of both countries border security system BSF and BGB as they are working together to cooperate on police matters and anti corporation activities and combat the issues of illicit drug trafficking, fake currency , human tracking.The relation of Bangladesh and India witness several ups and downs over the reign of different political parties specially Awami league has been an adversity for India's inner interest.There are some conflicts and death of Bangladeshi civilians occur many times a year as result of people attempting to illegally cross into India from Bangladesh, for walking along the border, cross border firing and cattle smuggling.To prevent smuggling and illegal migration from Bangladesh, the Indian Border Security Force(BSF) exercises its controversial "Shoot-on-sight" policy.According to a report published by Human rights organisations, around 1,000 Bangladeshi civilians have been killed by Indian BSF in a period of 10 years (from 2001 to 2010).The report also states that Indian paramilitary forces routinely threaten, abuse arbitrarily detain and torture local Bangladeshi civilians living along the border and Bangladeshi border guards usually don't help the Bangladeshi civilians.According to Odhikar’s report it is mentioned that from 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2006 that in the last 7 years total 607 Bangladeshis were killed, 663 were injured, 514 arrested, 705 abducted, 83 people including 8 children went missing, 10 women were reportedly raped, while 61 incidents of snatching and looting occurred by BSF and Indian hoodlums.
* Economic partnership:India and Bangladesh have a strong economic partnership that includes trade, infrastructure, and digital and green initiatives. Trade India is Bangladesh's largest trade partner in South Asia.In 2023–2024, the total bilateral trade between the two countries was $14.01 billion.Bangladesh exported $1.97 billion of goods to India in 2023–2024.India and Bangladesh have signed agreements to improve railway connectivity. India has provided lines of credit to Bangladesh for projects like railway infrastructure, dredging, and bus procurement. The two countries have also signed agreements to improve maritime cooperation and the blue economy.

China and Bangladesh relation:Bangladesh–China relations are the bilateral relations of Bangladesh and China.Both countries are members of the BCIM.Forum(Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Forum for Regional Cooperation). According to Chinese government designations, Bangladesh and China are in a "comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership".On October 4, 1975, China officially established diplomatic relations with Bangladesh.Since the establishment of diplomatic ties, the two sides have always understood and supported each other on issues involving core interests and major concerns.In 1976, President Ziaur Rahman established close ties with China. Later, President Ershad's visit to China in 1987 led to the development of China-Bangladesh relations. When Begum Khaleda Zia was the Prime Minister, the Chinese Prime Minister Jiabao visited Bangladesh. In 2005, both countries declared "Bangladesh China Friendship Year ". In 2007, China donated 1.0 million US dollars for the first time to the victims of the cyclone. At present, China-Bangladesh relations are very good.

Economic tie:Bangladesh has made significant progress in reducing poverty and improving its economic conditions since 1999. Poverty declined from 11.8 percent in 2010 to 5.0 percent in 2022, based on the international poverty line of $2.15 a day. China, in particular, has become an important economic partner for Bangladesh, as evidenced by its foreign direct investment (FDI) which increased 10.9 times between 2011 and 2019.In 2023, China and Bangladesh reinforced their Strategic Partnership of Cooperation, with President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina holding face-to-face talks after four years. Chinese investment in Bangladesh reached nearly 1.4 billion USD, supporting over 700 Chinese companies and creating 550,000 job opportunities.

Anglo-American feminist analysis looks at literature from a gender perspective, exploring how texts are created, perceived, and their impact on culture. American feminist analysis, inspired by the civil rights movement, aimed to challenge how women were portrayed in literature. Books like "The Feminine Mystique" and "Sexual Politics" illuminated women's challenges and advocated for their fair representation in writing. British feminist analysis, with a stronger political leaning, used Marxist and psychoanalytic frameworks to examine gender dynamics in artistic expression. Its goal was to dismantle societal norms that marginalized women economically and socially. Anglo-American feminism evolved through four stages: initially critiquing the portrayal of women in literature, then focusing on women's literary contributions and cultural practices, exploring theoretical concepts influenced by Continental philosophy, and finally, emphasizing gender critique.

The debate over whether Henrik Ibsen embraced feminist ideals varies, with opinions ranging from seeing him as somewhat socialist to more humanistic. Some argue for his quasi-socialist tendencies, pointing to events like a performance of *A Doll’s House* involving prominent figures in the British socialist movement, suggesting a link between Ibsen's work and socialist principles. In the 19th century, feminism and socialism often intertwined, as socialist thinkers recognized the need for significant societal changes to achieve true gender equality. Despite these connections, Ibsen never explicitly declared himself a feminist, as seen in his speech at the Norwegian Women’s Right League festival in 1898. He distanced himself from the Women’s Rights League, denying any intentional advocacy for women's rights. Instead, he saw himself primarily as a poet, emphasizing his focus on describing humanity as a whole rather than specifically championing women's rights. However, it's arguable that Ibsen's concerns were less about politics or feminism and more about humanism. He may have believed that advocating for women didn't necessitate a feminist label, but rather a fundamental belief in human dignity and equality. Some scholars suggest that *A Doll’s House*, often viewed as his most feminist work, may have been more about broader themes like individualism and human autonomy. Nora, the protagonist, could represent not just feminist ideals but universal human experiences.

Nevertheless, evidence suggests that Ibsen was indeed concerned about women's issues. He supported petitions for equal rights in marriage and wrote to Bjornston about the need for practical reforms for women's rights (Lorentzen 2013: 56). Despite his reluctance to align with specific groups, his work and personal relationships indicate his engagement with feminist ideas. Conversations with feminists such as Camilla Collett about marriage and women's roles also shaped his perspective (Encyclopaedia Britannica Online). Ultimately, Ibsen's support for feminist movements is evident in his works and activism, even if he hesitated to explicitly label himself as a feminist.

American feminist critic Showalter classified feminist criticism into two types: feminist critique and gynocritics (Rice and Waugh 2001: 146-7). The feminist critique examines women's portrayal in literature, addressing stereotypes and gaps in male-dominated literary history. Gynocritics, focusing on 'woman as writer,' doesn't apply here since the play was written by a man, so this analysis falls under the feminist critique. Initially, *A Doll’s House* portrays women in stereotypical roles: irrational, dependent on men, and confined to the home. Reflecting Victorian norms, the play restricts women to domestic duties and denies them political voice, with Torvald representing the rational, dominant male focused on work. In fact when the children return from a walk with their nurse he, remarks that “the place will only be bearable for a mother now” (Ibsen, *A Doll’s House* Act 1:23). In contrast, Nora embodies traits suited for the private sphere: submissive, naive, and childlike. Her interactions are limited to household tasks and social visits, emphasizing her dependency on her husband and lack of agency. However, not all female characters fit these stereotypes. Mrs. Christine Linde contrasts Nora, showing pragmatism and independence by taking on responsibilities. The play highlights the societ al division of public and private spheres, reinforcing women's subordinate status and limiting their economic independence, perpetuating male dominance. Nora's journey challenges traditional gender roles, as she transitions from a submissive wife to a woman seeking self-discovery. Her realization of being treated as a doll prompts her to question societal norms and prioritize her own fulfillment.

In a feminist analysis, Alfred Lord Tennyson's "The Lady of Shalott" reflects the limited freedom and access to public life that women experienced in the Victorian era. The Lady's confinement in her tower, only able to see the world through a mirror, symbolizes the restricted lives women led. Her weaving, a domestic activity, represents the limited creativity permitted to women in private spaces. The curse preventing her from looking directly out of her window represents societal restrictions on women's direct experience and knowledge. When she defies the curse and looks upon Sir Lancelot, she asserts her independence, but her tragic end underscores the dangers women faced when challenging patriarchal norms. This highlights the risks women took in pursuing self-fulfillment in a society that demanded their obedience and submission.

China-Bangladesh Friendship Talent Development Project: This project involves the donation of smart classrooms to schools in Bangladesh, aiming to promote digital education and contribute to the vision of a Smart Bangladesh.

Belt and Road Initiative (BRI): Over the last decade, China has released $4.45 billion for 35 projects under BRI in Bangladesh. Chinese enterprises have implemented major infrastructure projects in sectors like transportation, energy, power, and communications in Bangladesh, including the inauguration of the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Tunnel, the Padma Bridge, BCIM Economic Corridor, Single Point Mooring (SPM) with Double Buoy Mooring (DBM), among others. The focus of China's investment in Bangladesh has shifted from light industry to infrastructure, such as power plants and highways. These BRI projects have significantly improved Bangladesh's infrastructure and advanced its development objectives as it has drawn more capital to be invested in digitization, energy, and transportation, and enabled greater local participation and engagement with diverse stakeholders, such as governments, commercial sector, and civil society. However, sustainable financing remains a primary concern in the region, considering how Bangladesh - a member of China's BRI - already owes Beijing USD 4 billion, or 6% of its total foreign debt. Due to these reasons, a number of BRI infrastructure projects in Bangladesh, such as building a 5G network for the government-owned telecom company Teletalk and building highways, have been abandoned or delayed.

Bilateral Trade: Over the years, China and Bangladesh's bilateral trade has increased significantly; in 2021, China exported $24.1 billion worth of goods to Bangladesh, up from $652 million in 1995. While Bangladesh's main exports to China include knit t-shirts, tanned equine and bovine hides, and light rubberised knitted fabric, China's top exports to Bangladesh are vaccinations and refined petroleum.

Economic and technological cooperation: China and Bangladesh have immense potential to explore cooperation in fields like climate change, renewable energy, and digital technology. One notable project is the Cox's Bazar wind power project, which is the first centralised wind power project in Bangladesh. Upon its full operation, it is expected to provide Bangladesh with about 145 million kWh of clean electricity per year, reducing coal consumption and carbon emissions. The Chinese corporation SPIC Willing Power Corporation provides financial support to the private company US-DK Green Energy Bd Ltd, which is leading the project.The geographic position also dictates the pattern and terms of trade for Bangladesh when it comes to China and India. Being geographically distanced from Bangladesh, China lost its edge and status of being Bangladesh’s largest trading partner which it enjoyed since 2006 due to the Covid endemic. Geographic proximity provided India the edge and opportunity to reclaim its lost status, for a short while though. In May 2022, China once again reemerged as Bangladesh’s largest trading partner.

India China rivalry:India and China have often competed for strategic dominance in the international and regional order, and continue to be embroiled in border disputes. Yet, despite their differences, the two have also cooperated in bilateral, regional, and multi-nation forums in the past.This growing competition manifests in many areas. Despite having much in common—as rising powers with nuclear weapons and large populations alongside a shared ambition of multipolarity—India and China regard each other with suspicion.India and China have a complex history of rivalry, rooted in geopolitical tensions, border disputes, and differing ideological alignments. Their rivalry can be traced back to the mid-20th century when India granted asylum to the Dalai Lama after China’s annexation of Tibet in 1950, which strained relations. The Sino-Indian War of 1962 over the Aksai Chin and Arunachal Pradesh regions further deepened hostilities, with China emerging victorious. Since then, both countries have experienced intermittent skirmishes, such as the Doklam standoff in 2017 and the Galwan Valley clash in 2020, marking continued territorial disputes. Additionally, competition over regional influence in South Asia and differing positions in global governance contribute to their rivalry (Garver, 2001).India and China have a complex history of rivalry shaped by border disputes, trade competition, and geopolitical ambitions.The Sino-Indian border dispute, particularly over Aksai Chin and Arunachal Pradesh, has fueled tensions for decades. The 1962 Sino-Indian War marked a significant deterioration in relations, with recurring standoffs, including Doklam (2017) and Galwan Valley (2020) (Malone, 2021).While China remains India's largest trading partner, the relationship is marked by a significant trade deficit. India’s efforts to counter China’s economic influence, including banning Chinese apps and reducing dependency on Chinese imports, underscore their rivalry (Pant & Joshi, 2020).China leverages its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) to strengthen economic ties with South Asian countries, including Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh. Projects like the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and investments in Sri Lankan ports exemplify China's influence in India’s neighborhood (Bhattacharjee, 2022.)India emphasizes regional cooperation through initiatives like SAARC, BIMSTEC, and the “Neighborhood First” policy to counter China's influence. India also provides development assistance and builds military partnerships with neighboring states to secure its strategic interests (Mitra, 2023).The India-China border disputes, particularly in the contentious areas of Aksai Chin and Arunachal Pradesh, have profound implications for regional security in South Asia. Military standoffs, such as the 2020 Galwan Valley clash, highlight the risk of escalation into full-scale conflict, which could destabilize the broader region (Kapoor, 2021). The disputes strain India's defense resources and divert attention from other pressing security issues, such as its border with Pakistan and internal insurgencies. Moreover, the power dynamics between India and China impact smaller neighboring states like Bhutan and Nepal, influencing their foreign policies and security postures (Pant & Joshi, 2022). The competition between the two countries for strategic influence in the Indian Ocean Region adds another layer of complexity to regional security (Mukherjee, 2020).

Defence cooperation among Bangladesh, India and China: India and Bangladesh have strengthened their defense cooperation through agreements that focus on joint exercises, training, and supply of military equipment. The Framework Agreement on Defense Cooperation signed in 2017 marked a significant step toward institutionalizing defense ties between the two nations. India has provided Bangladesh with concessional credit lines worth $500 million for military modernization, which includes the procurement of vehicles, radar systems, and communication equipment (Sarma, 2021). Furthermore, joint naval and army exercises, such as the annual "Sampriti" and "Milan" series, aim to enhance interoperability and foster trust between their armed forces. These agreements not only improve bilateral defense collaboration but also contribute to regional stability in South Asia (Basu, 2020).China has emerged as a significant defense partner for Bangladesh, providing military aid and advanced equipment at competitive prices. Key agreements include the supply of frigates, submarines, fighter aircraft, and air defense systems. Notably, China supplied two Ming-class submarines to Bangladesh in 2016, bolstering its naval capabilities (Chakrabarty, 2022). Additionally, China actively engages in military training programs and technical support, ensuring long-term strategic ties. The partnership is part of China’s broader Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) strategy to deepen its influence in South Asia and counterbalance India’s regional dominance (Rahman, 2021).India faces the challenge of countering China's growing influence in Bangladesh while maintaining cordial ties with its neighbor. To this end, India has focused on economic aid, infrastructure projects, and defense collaboration to build strategic goodwill. For instance, India’s $2 billion line of credit for non-military projects in Bangladesh complements its defense cooperation efforts (Kapoor & Singh, 2023). India also emphasizes people-to-people ties and cultural diplomacy to solidify its historical relationship with Bangladesh. However, the competition remains intense as China's defense technology and financial flexibility often overshadow India’s offerings. To balance this, India has been advocating for a "neighborhood first" policy, reinforcing its commitment to the security and prosperity of South Asia (Roy, 2020).

Role of regional organizations (e.g., SAARC,BIMSTEC):Regional organizations should be given enough authority and resources to play an active role in the pacific settlement of regional disputes. Meanwhile, the Security Council needs to encourage member states to use the regional organizations to solve their disputes.SAARC was established to promote economic, social, and cultural cooperation among South Asian nations. However, its role in regional security has been limited due to political rivalries, particularly between India and Pakistan. Efforts like the SAARC Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism have been undermined by a lack of implementation and consensus (Kumar, 2020). Despite its limitations, SAARC remains a platform for dialogue, though its effectiveness in addressing regional security concerns is constrained.BIMSTEC has emerged as a promising alternative to SAARC, connecting South and Southeast Asia. Unlike SAARC, it excludes Pakistan, which allows India to play a more dominant role in security cooperation. BIMSTEC’s focus on counterterrorism, disaster management, and maritime security has enhanced its relevance in regional security architecture (Chakraborty, 2021). Joint exercises like the "BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise" and initiatives to combat transnational crimes demonstrate its potential to address shared security challenges.

Influence of external actors like the U.S. and ASEAN:The United States is one of Bangladesh's principal strategic military allies. American defense cooperation is seen as a counterweight to regional powers India and China, as well as Russia. Joint exercises are held on a regular basis, particularly in the Bay of Bengal. The U.S. Indo-Pacific Command maintains regular engagements with the Bangladesh Armed Forces. The U.S. has also helped set up the elite SWADS marine unit in the Bangladesh Navy, which is modeled on American and South Korean special forces.Bangladesh is one of the world's largest contributors to UN peacekeeping.The United States has been a vital supporter of Bangladeshi peacekeeping engagements.

Moreover,ASEAN serves as a model for regional cooperation and conflict resolution. South Asian nations, particularly India, engage with ASEAN through forums like the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and East Asia Summit to address shared security challenges such as maritime disputes and terrorism. ASEAN’s emphasis on multilateralism and dialogue provides a framework for South Asian countries to engage in broader regional security initiatives, promoting stability and connectivity (Singh, 2021).

Present strategic change in the relation among India, Bangladesh and China: At present Bangladesh is going through a strategic shift from the reign of an autocrat toward the democratic ruling. Because of this political shifting there is also diplomatic change between India and Bangladesh. Since India was mostly dependent on one ruling party of Bangladesh,they cannot recognize the shift as a positive change for Bangladesh instead they are trying to fuel political usurpation in Bangladesh.Bangladesh has seen a government change after protests against Sheikh Hasina’s 15-year-long rule. The student-led protests in July 2024 resulted in Hasina’s resignation and her fleeing to India on August 5. Reportedly, the violent clashes between students and police resulted in around 400 deaths. Hasina’s stay in India is widely criticized by officials and social circles in Dhaka. Under Hasina’s rule, India enjoyed strong security cooperation, counterterrorism collaboration, and a strategic partnership with Bangladesh. These dynamics are now under scrutiny as the interim government hints at pursuing a more independent foreign policy. Signs of a strategic departure from Hasina’s India-centric policies are visible, with Bangladesh seemingly repositioning itself towards China, the United States (US), and Pakistan to diversify its diplomatic connections. While the fall of the Hasina regime carries significant repercussions for India at both regional and global levels, this analysis focuses on the emerging bilateral dynamics between India and Bangladesh. On the contrary, in July 2024, prior to the protests, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visited China, resulting in the signing of 20 cooperation agreements and the announcement of $1 billion in economic assistance from China. However, the political upheaval in Bangladesh has created uncertainties regarding the continuity of these agreements.

The interim government has expressed interest in maintaining balanced relations with major powers, including China. However, political instability and economic challenges may hinder China's ability to gain greater influence in Bangladesh.

Conclusion: The main motif of Bangladesh’s foreign policy is “ Friendship to all malice to none”. Although the past government has been usurped by the students,common people and so on, there is no change in the main motif of foreign policy. That means Bangladesh does not want any hostile relations with anyone.Due to several interdependence and interest India wants to dominate Bangladesh and it has always been easy to dominate Bangladesh under the reign of Awami league or previous government. India has hostile relations with China as well as China has always owned some part of India which is exactly above the chicken neck or siliguri corridor and a narrow strip of Indian territory connecting the northeastern states to the rest of India.This chicken neck is mainly located in between Bangladesh and Nepal as well as it is also significantly important for India to make alignment to the northern part of India to the rest of India.India has a number of forces stationed on the borders, the Army and Indo-Tibetan Border Police man the border with China;Sashastra Seema Bal are deployed along the border with Nepal and Bhutan and Border Security Force for Bangladesh.The threat of a Chinese advance is still considered by Indian planners.A Chinese military advance of less than 130 km (81 mi) would cut off Bhutan, part of West Bengal and all of North-East India, an area containing almost 50 million people. This situation arose during the war between India and China in 1962.The security threat to this corridor was heightened during the 2017 Doklam incident.[16] The probability of China cutting off seven states in northeast India has been questioned. Therefore, Bangladesh and China relations can be insecure of India as long as they can dominate Bangladesh as well as they keep Bangladesh under their control then they will continue connection with the northern part of India through Bangladesh. Though Bangladesh is providing a realistic approach to handle this situation and maintain a proper relation with India and China as well. However the people of Bangladesh are not likely accepting India's influence in our internal factor.

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