**The Story of $400 Billion**

Have your ears too shattered by the news of whopping 400 Billion Dollar investment by China in Iran? I hope they don't. Mine have already blown out. Even the doctor's are running a lot busy now -a-days, I'm already struggling to take their appointments. While I book an appointment for myself, Why don't you have a deeper insight into the matter?

Its been long said,**" Your enemy's enemy is a potential friend.''** Our dear neighbor, has took it too Seriously. China 's growing tensions with the United States has brought it much closer to the oil-rich Iran. China has promised to invest **$400 Billion in Iran's economy in the span of next 25 year**. Well this amount is so huge that you and me can't even imagine of this. To imagine the weight of the amount, take the case Pakistan. While Pakistan is drowning in Chinese loans, from head to toe, it owes China roughly $50 billion when only $50billion is enough to shrink a nation. Justice assume **what havocs can $400 billion do?** But what's attracting China so much in this deal? Well there are more than one answer to this, Let's look at a few of these one-by one.

Iran has been a war-struck Nation, that faces a hell lot of issues on the global fronts such as-

* Iran has also been blacklisted by UN's FATF body .
* Iran doesn't even have diplomatic relation with many world economies.
* US sanctions every nation having bilateral trade with Iran.

But even this don't look enough for Iran from becoming the prey to China's debt trap diplomacy. Let's look at it more briefly.

**China's Debt Trap Policy**

Ever since the **Chinese Belt and Road Initiative** came into existence, China has been deliberately following the **Modern day Colonialism**  and Iran's slowly falling into it.

Under its hook, China tends to loan excessive amount of credit to lure various under developed nations in the Sub Saharan Africa and Southern Asia.

While these nations can't afford such expenditures the huge amounts tends to corrupt their calculation. Then starts the game of Chinese debt traps. While most of the loan's terms are not put into public domain neither by China nor its prey and at the same time China also makes sure that only Chinese companies are the ones benefiting from these projects. Or the other way around, **there isn't any meaning of development for the host Country** but instead to load them with piles of debt that it many cases is even larger than **50% of the national GDP.**

China doesn't seems to stop even there, once the loan amount starts to exaggerate. China starts pressurizing the host government the other way around interfering in the country's internal matters. Consequently, once an independent sovereign country, ends up losing a part of their territory. One live example is the **Sri Lanka's Hambantota Port** that Sri Lanka ceded to China for a **Century** as a settlement against the Chinese investments at Hambantota.

**China 's Interest in Iran**

It seems this time China's eyeing much more than just Iran's territory. Iran has been blessed with huge reserves of energy reserves but the war-torn country don't have enough cash to make these resource viable. It seems this is what China is targeting at from its multi-billion dollar investment. Its quit evident from the statement, of the promised $400 billion**, $280 billion alone is being spent on developing the oil and gas resources**, which in turn will give China access to cheap oil and gas.

But China don't plan to stop even there, it's ulimate goal is the expansion of its esteemed Belt and Road initiative through and Iran and Kazakh, in order to reduce its dependence on the strategically located straight to Hormuz and Straight of Malacca.

Well Belt and Road Initiative is just of part of China 's brutal Modern day Colonialism. As of now **China aims to bring more than 5000 PLA troops** in Iran along with its investments, for its strategic needs. And I won't be surprised if number rises exponentially in the near future and we see a significant amount of PLA troops in Iranian territory .

But why is Iran falling in this trap, don't they know of this trap?

As of now , I can only figure out one reason for it -**Donald Trump.**

**US's Stand on Iran**.

To most of the people out there, it seem quite straight forward how US has left no option for Iran. Just see ,the Indian scenario not long ago, until the last year India was the largest consumer of Iranian oil. But as of now Indian import of Iranian oil stand near zero. All thanks tpo US sanctions on the bilateral trade with Iran. These sanctions were followed by **Trump's withdrawal from the Iran Nuclear Deal**. And while all this was going on **US assassinated Iran's top military leader- Qasem Soleimani** during a diplomatic mission to Iraq by a precise drone strike.

Believe me or not, but the US government under **Donald Trump has only widened the gap between Middle-East and the West**, which laid down a smooth ride for the Expansionist Communist Nation to jump in the gorge .

**Impact on INDIA**

With China shaking hands with Iran India's diplomatic relation with Tehran has suffered a huge blow. As you all may know, India operates the Chabahar port in Iran and India is also developing the Chabahar Railway Project to open the Central Asian Market to Indian goods. But recent development suggest that Tehran has to said New Delhi that, its developing the project on its own. But its quite evident that its the Chinese regime that's supporting Iran to back out.

But the major issue is that the Chabahar project means a lot to us, we have already invested enough in it that we can't afford to lose it at this stage, but the Chinese entry into the region has only made the situation worse. On the same time the Iran's envoy to India , **Ali Chegeni's statement made a huge blow in the political circles**. Here's the envoys statement, word to word**, “India had fought hard for it's independence and should not have given it to unilateral sanctions from the US. ''**

While Ali was referring to India's shift of oil policy from Iran but this statement itself conveyed a big message .

I don't think he said any thing irrelevant, I strongly agree with the bureaucrat's statement .Don't you?

Had **Vajpayee Ji** been alive today, he too would have said the same .

**Conclusion**

**While the Chinese investment has brought a geo-political unbalance in the region as Iran stands on verge of falling into the Chinese trap. Now its just matter of time before China starts annexing the Iranian territory or India stands up against the sanctions to save Iran from the Dragon.**