

Project Presentation

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GROUP #7

Indian Quest for Hegemony in Indian Ocean:

Challenges For Pakistan

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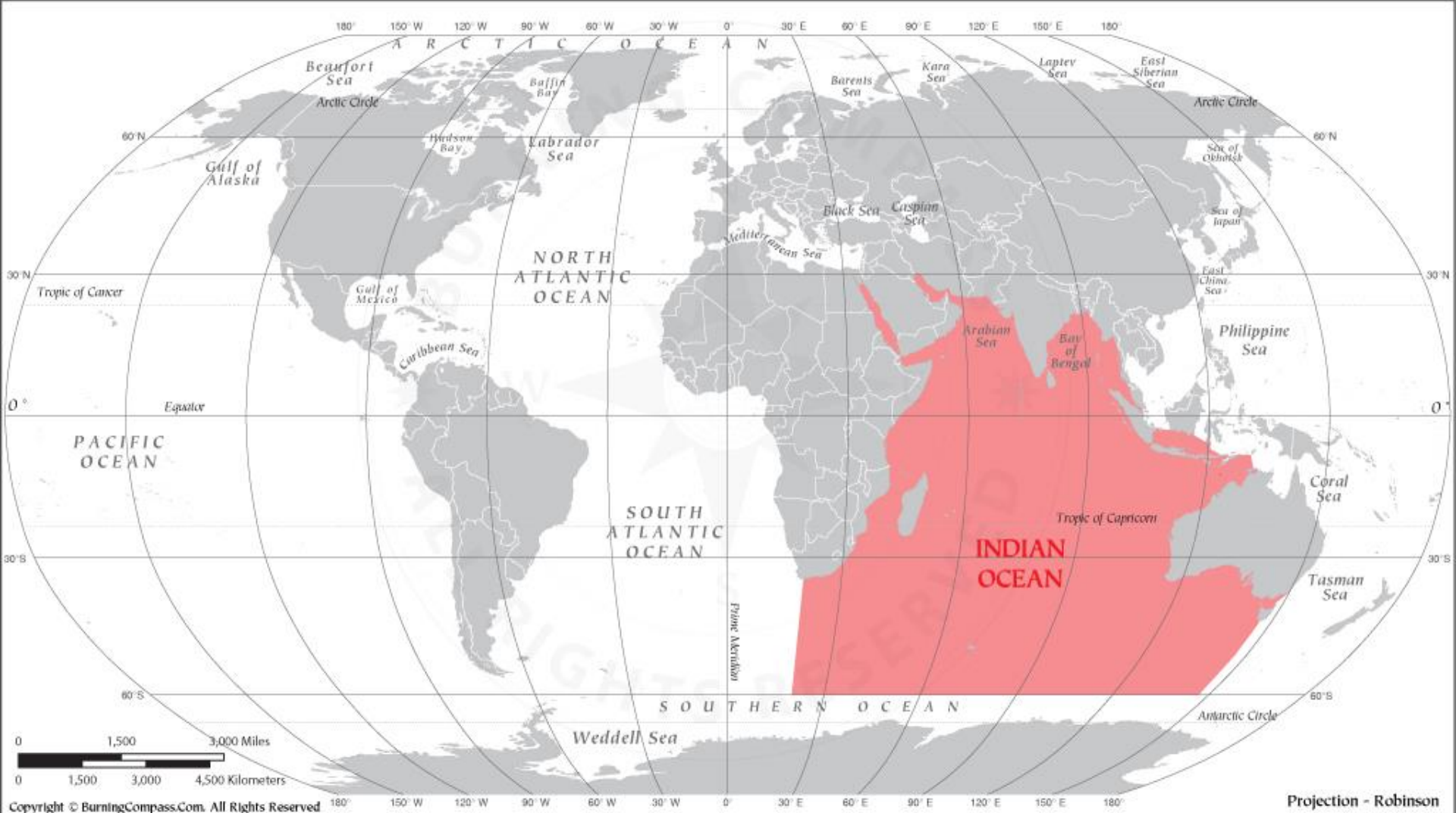
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Introduction

What our Project was about

The Geo-Economic & geo-Strategic significance of the Indian Ocean region (IOR)

The current Standpoint and Importance



- The Indian Ocean is the third largest ocean in the world, covering approximately 20% of the Earth's water surface
- The Indian Ocean is home to a diverse array of marine life and plays a significant role in global weather patterns, trade, and communication.
- Here are some aspects of the Indian Ocean's geo-economic significance:

Trade routes and chokepoints

- The Indian Ocean is a crucial transit route for global trade, Approximately 80% of the world's seaborne oil trade passes through the Indian Ocean

Energy resources

• Regional powers and influence

- The Indian Ocean region is home to several major powers, including India, China, and Australia, as well as emerging powers such as Indonesia and South Africa.

• Maritime security and military presence

- The presence of international naval forces, including those from the United States, China, and India, highlights the strategic importance of the Indian Ocean

The Indo-Pacific concept

- The Indian Ocean is increasingly considered part of the broader Indo-Pacific region, which includes the Pacific Ocean and the seas around East Asia. This concept reflects the growing strategic interdependence between these areas and the desire to maintain a rules-based order and freedom of navigation (Smith, D., & Bergin, A., 2014).

Maritime disputes and territorial claims

- **The Gwadar Port**
- **Maritime security and naval presence**
- **Trade and economic potential**
- **Regional politics & strategic competition**



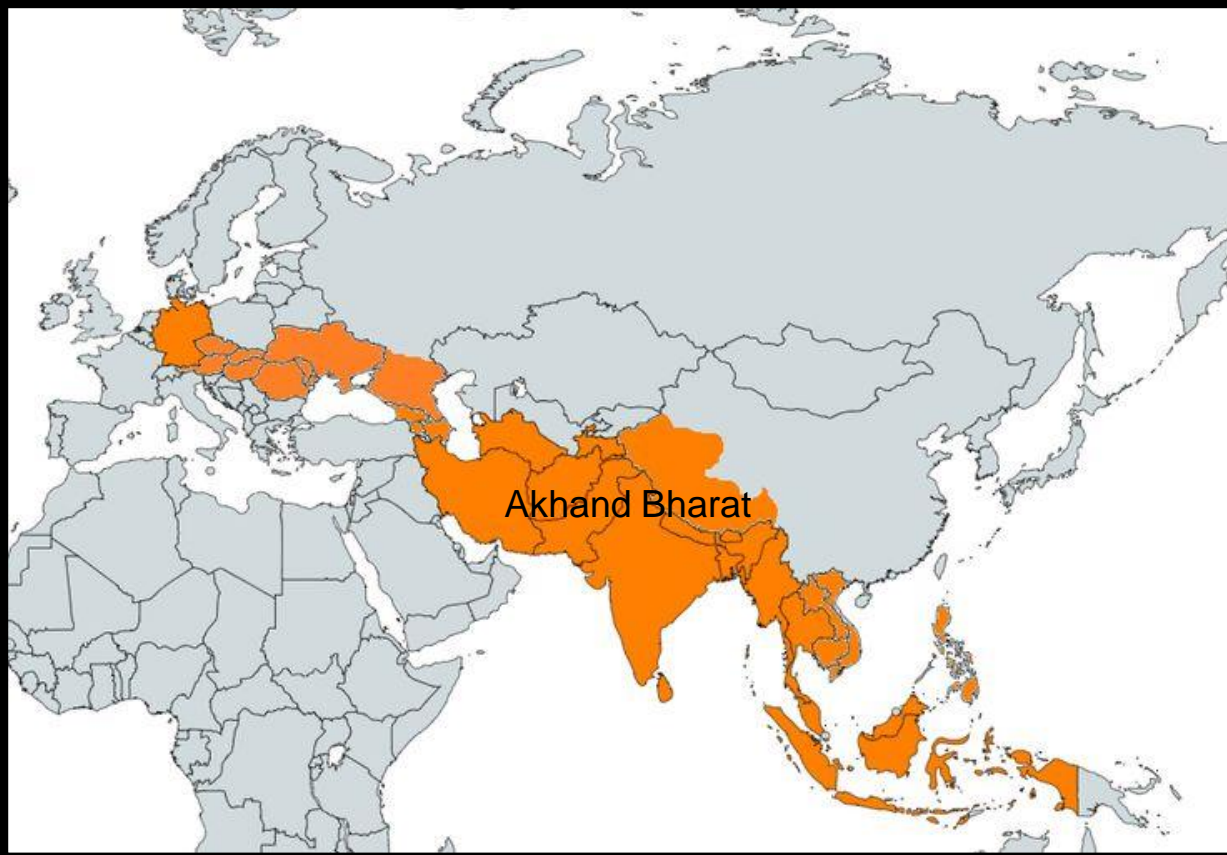




History of the Indo-Pak relationship in Maritime and naval aspects

- The history of Pakistan's and India's military ties has been intricate and multidimensional, marked by periods of collaboration, rivalry, and war. This is especially true of their naval relations.
- In the beginning, there was cooperation in terms of training and joint exercises between the Royal Pakistan Navy (RPN) and the Indian Navy (IN), both of which inherited ships and equipment from the British Royal Navy.
- During the 1971 Indo-Pakistani War, which led to the establishment of Bangladesh, naval operations between Pakistan and India significantly increased.

- In the years following the 1971 war, Pakistan and India's naval relationships were strained as both nations worked to reestablish their naval power.
- Moreover, the concept of "Akhand Bharat" which refers to the idea of a unified Hindu-majority South Asian subcontinent including present-day Pakistan, has also had an impact on the naval relationships between Pakistan and India.



- In the Arabian Sea, Pakistan and India engaged in a number of naval encounters and skirmishes in the 1980s and 1990s. These included claims of naval blockades, vessel interceptions, and naval ship and aircraft clashes.
- Pakistan and India participated in the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS), which aimed to promote maritime cooperation and security in the region.
- Positive changes occurred in Pakistan and India's naval relations in the early 2000s. Both nations participated in cooperative naval drills, such as Pakistan's "Aman" exercise.

- However, the naval ties between Pakistan and India were once more strained as a result of the 2008 Mumbai attacks
- Despite these efforts, the naval relationship between Pakistan and India remains complex,
- In conclusion, the history of naval relationships between Pakistan and India after the 1971 war has been characterized by a complex interplay of strategic competition, regional geopolitics, and differing perceptions of security threats.

The background features a stylized world map in a light gray color, centered on the Indian Ocean. The map shows the outlines of continents and major countries. The text is overlaid on the right side of the map. The background also has a dark blue gradient with subtle wavy lines, suggesting ocean waves. There are white curved lines on the left and right sides of the slide, framing the content.

Maritime Trade affairs through the years

- The Indian Ocean has been a central trade route for centuries. It was the maritime version of the Silk Road at during the early eras of intercontinental trade.

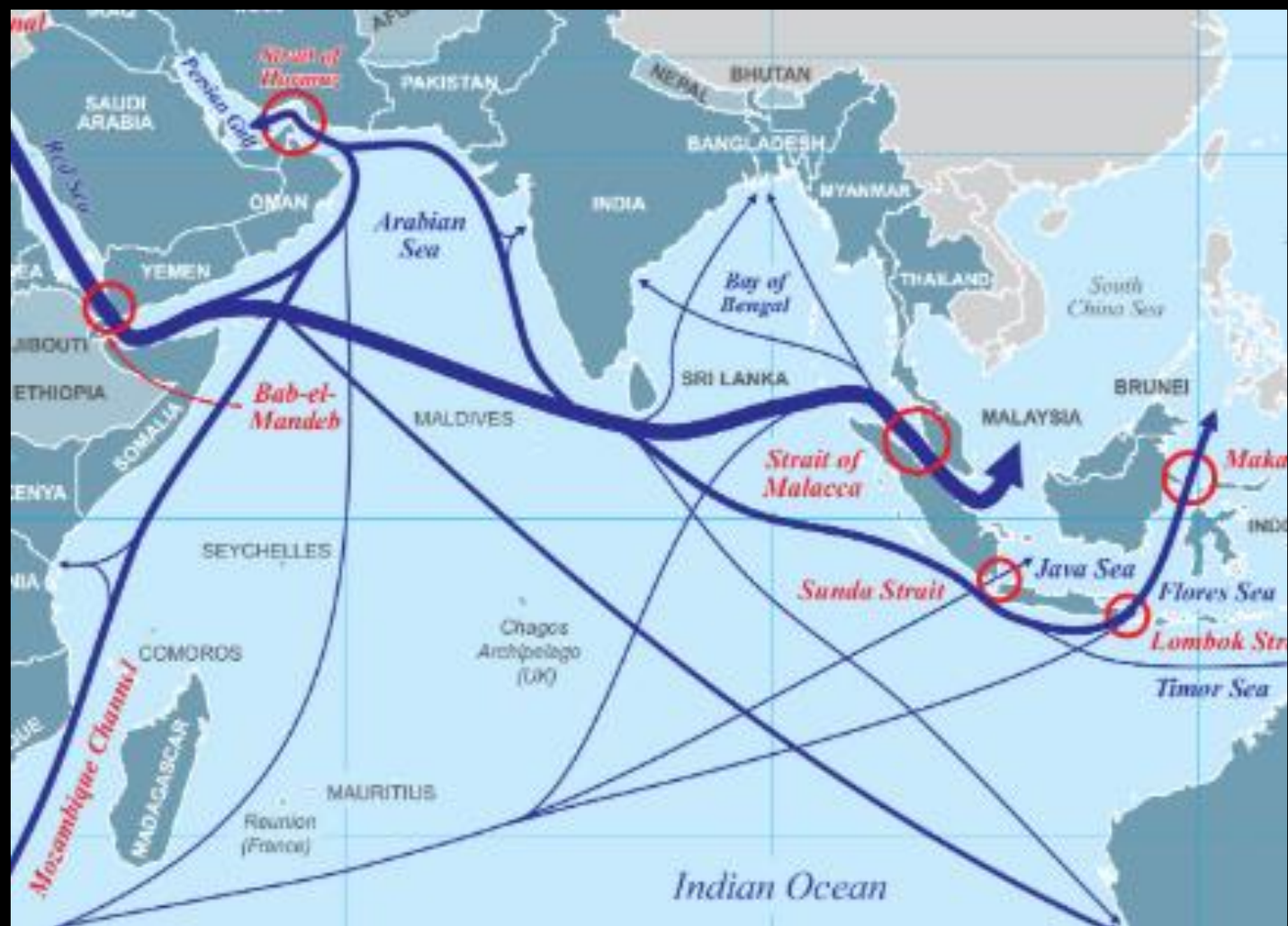


- Maritime plays a vital role in shaping the world's economy, culture, and politics. Throughout history, nations have relied on their naval powers to establish trade routes, secure territories, and promote diplomacy
- To understand the history of Maritime trade, we must realize that it dates to ancient times, where civilizations relied on naval powers to establish trade routes and expand their territories
- One of the earliest such routes was the Silk Road, connecting China to the Mediterranean via sea routes as well as land routes.

- Ancient civilizations such as the Phoenicians, Greeks, and Romans established vast empires through their naval power, creating trade routes that spanning the Mediterranean, the Indian Ocean, and the Red Sea
- The Arabian Sea, which borders Pakistan's coastline, has been a significant trade route for centuries.

- The Indus Valley Civilization, which existed in modern-day Pakistan and India, was an ancient hub for maritime trade.
- The Greeks and Romans also established trade relations with the Indus Valley Civilization. Which was recorded in an ancient Greek guidebook for maritime traders; the Periplus of the Erythraean Sea (waters of the Persian Gulf).

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. Historical eras

- . Islamic Golden Era (8th to the 14th century)
- . The Mughal Empire (16th to the 19th)
- . Colonial Era (19th Century)
- . Pakistan from the 19th to the 20th century.

. **Pakistan's Maritime Trade Affairs**

- gained independence in 1947, and since then, the country has been involved in maritime trade affairs independently.
- The Karachi Port, Pakistan's largest and busiest port, was established by the British in the 1900s.
- Gwadar, another port located in the Baluchistan province, has emerged as a significant port in recent years.



International Water Domains with respect to Ports

· STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

- One of the most significant strategic implications of the BRI and CPEC for international water domains is the expansion of Chinese influence in these regions.
- In addition to concerns about Chinese influence, the expansion of Chinese ports and maritime infrastructure could also create strategic competition with other countries.
- This could lead to an arms race and an escalation of tensions in the region, particularly if countries feel threatened by China's growing influence.

CHINA'S PROPOSED BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE



. ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

- The development of ports and other infrastructure under the BRI and CPEC also has important economic implications for international water domains and ports.
- For example, the development of Gwadar port under the CPEC has the potential to transform Pakistan's economy and create new trade and investment opportunities.
- This could lead to job losses and economic dislocation in these countries, particularly if they are unable to compete with the lower costs and subsidies that China can offer.

Karachi



Gwadar



. Oppurtunities

- . Increased Trade and Investment:
- . Regional Connectivity:
- . Economic Development:

. Challenges

- . Strategic and Security Implications
- . Environmental Impacts
- . Fair Distribution of Economic Benefits



Pakistan's Vulnerability to Indian Hegemony

Since the Indian subcontinent was divided in 1947, tensions have existed between Pakistan and India. The two nations have been at loggerheads with one another over a number of different problems, including wars, border disputes, and other disagreements

Naval Superiority

- Over the last couple decades, India has achieved considerable advancements in strengthening its naval capabilities.
- Pakistan has serious concerns about the Indian Navy's escalating might in the Indian Ocean.
- The SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) maritime policy of India seeks to increase its presence in the Indian Ocean and broaden its regional impact.
- Pakistan's efforts to modernize its navy have been hindered. Pakistan is therefore, unable to contend with India's naval dominance in the area.



Economic Superiority

- India's economy has grown in a way that is nothing short of amazing. Its economy has been expanding on average between 7-8% year, and by 2030, it is anticipated to rank third in the globe.
- On the other hand, Pakistan's economy has had trouble keeping up with India's economic expansion. By 2050, it is anticipated that its economy, which has been expanding at a considerably slower rate, would rank as the 16th biggest economy in the world.

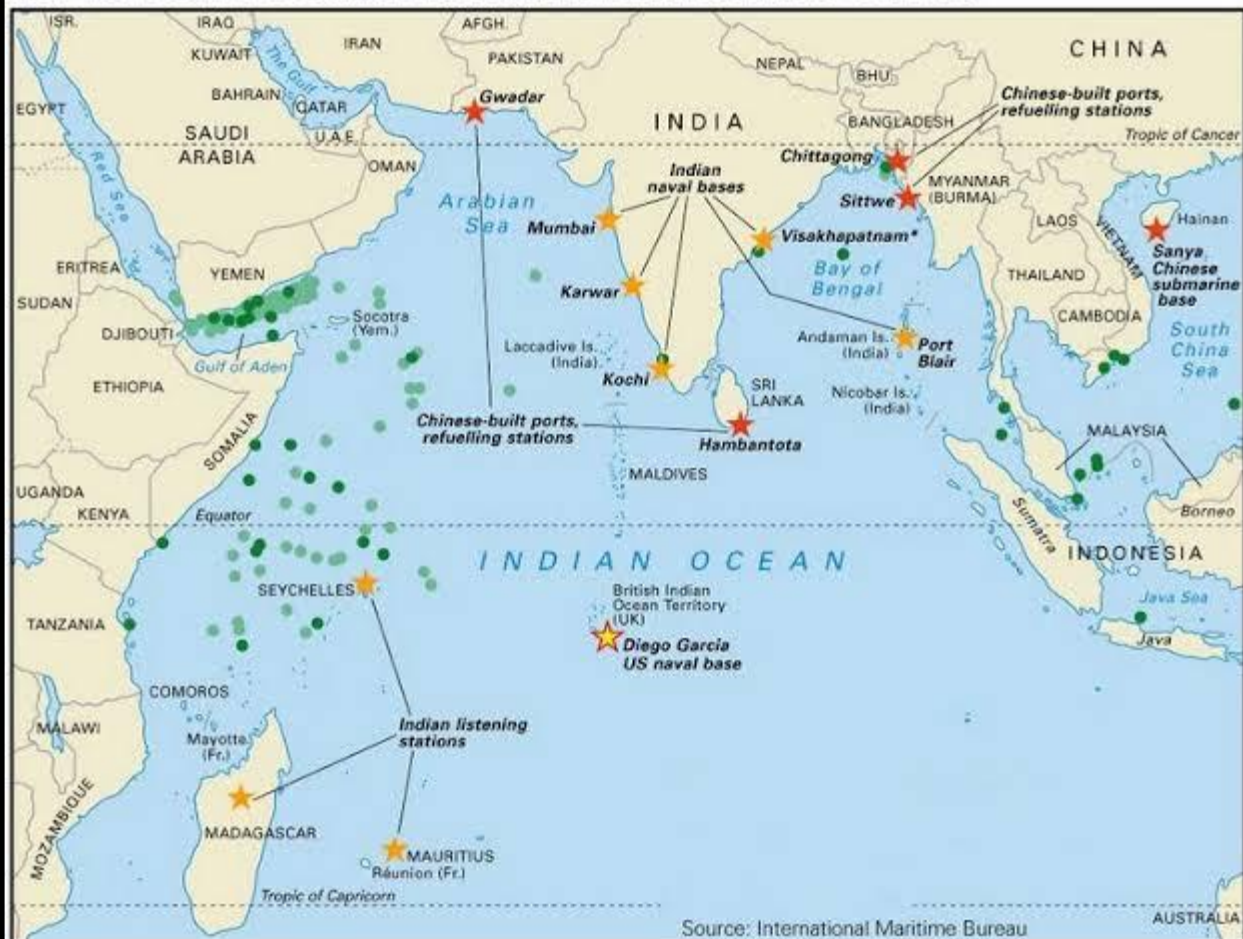
Economic Superiority

- Over 40% of Pakistan's workforce is employed in the country's agriculture industry, which is crucial to its economy. Its IT industry is still in its infancy, and its industrial sector has been reluctant to grow.
- Pakistan is worried that it may fall behind India in the contest for regional economic supremacy due to India's economic progress.
- Pakistan is susceptible to economic pressure from India because of its reliance on its neighbors for commerce and financial support.

. Overall...

- To protect its interests, Pakistan will need to take action to address these weaknesses, including enhancing its naval capabilities, looking into alternate sources of military gear, making investments in the growth of its industrial and IT sectors and looking into alternative trading partners. These actions would help Pakistan secure its security and prosperity in the region while reducing its exposure to India's hegemonic objectives.

GREAT POWER COMPETITION IN THE INDIAN OCEAN



Source: International Maritime Bureau

The background of the slide features a stylized map of the Indian Ocean region, including parts of Africa, the Middle East, South Asia, and Southeast Asia, rendered in a light gray color against a dark blue background with wavy lines representing ocean waves. The title text is overlaid on this background.

Further Research On the Indian Ocean Region (I.O.R)

. India's Struggle to Rule the Indian Ocean

- Indian Ocean interest has been in India since antiquity. India has made several moves in the contemporary age to increase its influence in the area.
- India has partnered with other nations such as Australia, Japan, and the United States. By forming these alliances, India hopes to overthrow China's expanding sway in the area and become the dominant force in the Indian Ocean.

India's Struggle to Rule the Indian Ocean

- India has been adding new warships and submarines to its naval fleet in recent years
- Several naval stations have been created by India, including the INS Baaz on the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, giving it strategic control over the entry to the Malacca Strait, a crucial commerce chokepoint.

• **India Forming Strategic Partnerships**

- India's strategic alliances with nations like the United States, Japan, and Australia are a component of a larger plan to expand its sphere of influence in the Indian Ocean.
- United States has been an important ally of India. Joint naval drills between the two nations have been taking place in the area, and the United States has been giving India access to cutting-edge military hardware like fighter jets and surveillance tools.

Challenges for Pakistan

- The growing rivalry between India and Pakistan.
- Due to its strategic location near the mouth of the Arabian Sea, Pakistan has long been a significant participant in the Indian Ocean.
- Pakistan's regional dominance may be threatened by India's expanding strategic alliances and naval capabilities.
- If there were to be a confrontation between Pakistan and India, it could disrupt trade and have severe economic consequences for Pakistan.





JOIN PAKISTAN
NAVY



Chinese Influence

- With the construction of military facilities in Djibouti, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan's Gwadar port, China has been expanding its influence in the region
- The Indian Ocean is crucial to China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which seeks to connect China with Europe via land and marine channels.
- China's presence in the Indian Ocean offers Pakistan economic benefits but also puts its sovereignty in danger.



. Overall...

- India's quest for hegemony in the Indian Ocean poses significant challenges for Pakistan.
- However, Pakistan can also benefit from India's partnerships, particularly with the United States and Japan, which may help counter China's influence in the region.
- To navigate these challenges, Pakistan will need to continue to engage with regional and global partners and invest in its own naval capabilities to maintain its strategic position in the Indian Ocean.



Conclusion

- Pakistan's primary challenge lies in balancing its relationships with key regional and international players while enhancing its maritime capabilities to protect its interests in the Indian Ocean.
- Although the Indian Ocean has historically been a zone of peace and cooperation, the current geopolitical climate necessitates that both India and Pakistan engage in constructive dialogue to reduce tensions and avoid potential conflicts.

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Thank You