

## Quiz 3 content

### Belt and Road Initiative

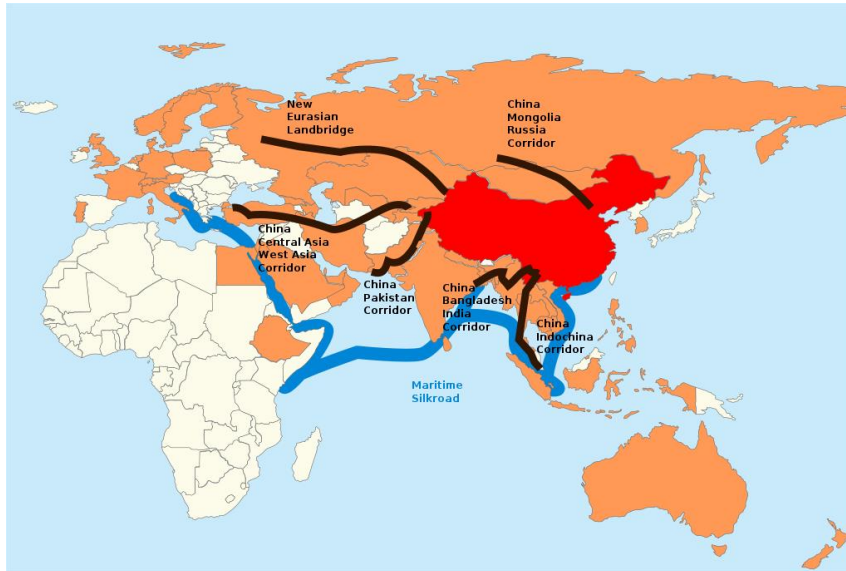
In Chinese and English as **One Belt One Road or OBOR** also known as the **Belt and Road Initiative** was a global infrastructure development strategy adopted by China President Xi **Jinping in 2013** to invest in nearly **70 countries** and some international organizations. He drew inspiration from the Silk Road concept was established during the Han Dynasty 2,000 years ago – an ancient network of trade routes that connected China to the Mediterranean via Eurasia for centuries. It is an aspirant economic development and a commercial project that focuses on improving all the connectivity and cooperation among most countries spread across Asia, Europe, and Africa. Recognized as the "**Project of the Century**" by the Chinese authorities, OBOR spans about 78 countries.

#### Goals of BRI

Belt & Road Initiative lies under five major goals, which are given below (European Bank, n.d.);-

- a) **Policy Coordination** - Strategies and policies are made in a way that will be friendly towards countries that lie on the Belt & Road Initiative. Rules and regulations will interest all parties involved and increase trade and reduce communication barriers.
- b) **Facilities Connectivity** - All countries involved will concentrate on improving transport infrastructure. For example, roads need to be smooth, share information, and increase sea routes and voyages amongst the BIR countries.
- c) **Unimpeded Trade**- Countries in Belt and Road jointly work together to increase mutual investment , remove trade barriers. There should be an increased communication between customs officials of different countries, which will help reduce time and cost of custom clearance. Documents such as quarantine certificate, inspection certificate could be uploaded in one single server which will be accessible by all custom officers from different countries to verify the authenticity.
- d) **Financial Integration** - Financial integration is the most essential goal amongst the BRI countries as these countries look forward to **exchanging local currency amongst themselves** instead of using conventional currencies like the Dollar or Euro. The outcome of

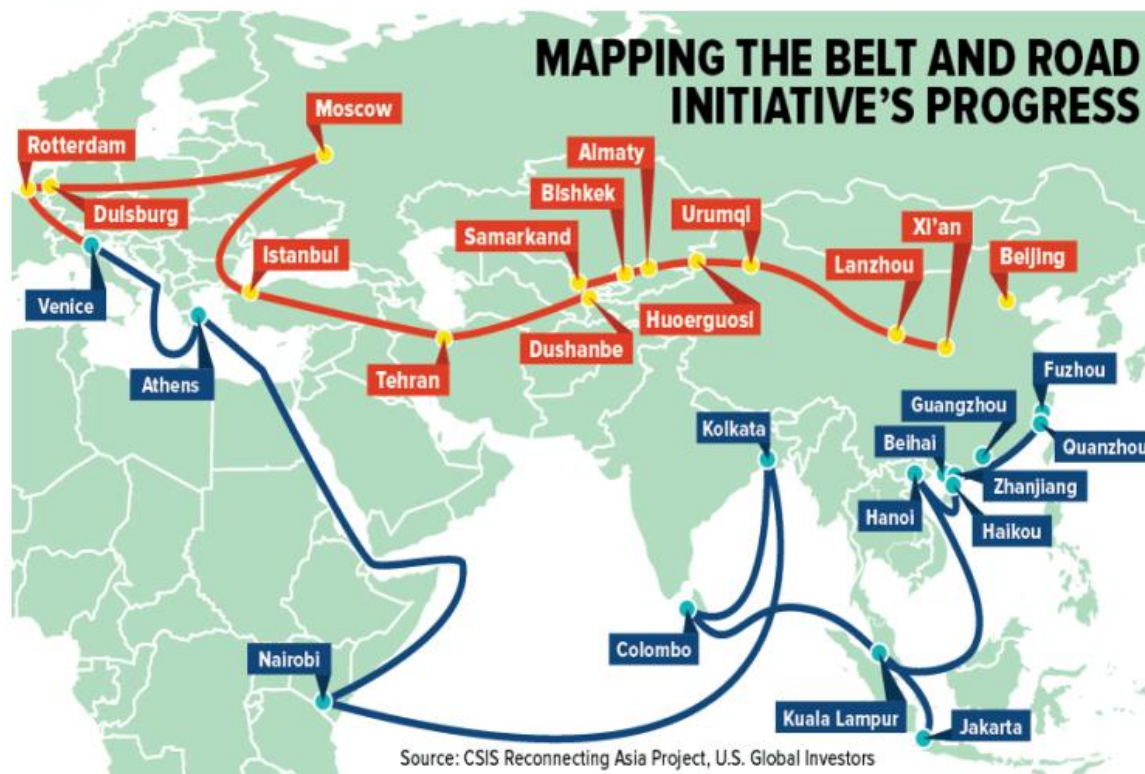
financial integration includes forming the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and BRICS New Development Bank.



**Fig- Proposed corridor and Maritime silk road**



**Fig: economic belt and maritime road.**



## Rohingya crisis in Bangladesh

The Rohingya public is a Hindu and Muslim minority bunch dwelling in the western territory of Rakhine, Myanmar, once known as Arakan. The religion of this ethnic gathering is a variety of Sufism, Islam and Hinduism.

The Rohingya people originated from the historical place of Arakan, which is situated in an old coastal country of South Asia. According to the Arakanese people, Rakhine people have resided there since 3000 BCE. According to Ahmed (2019), The Rohingya were the Muslim inhabitants of the medieval land of Arakan, majorities of whom have now taken shelter in Bangladesh after being forced to flee Myanmar. The Myanmar province of Arakan, renamed as Rakhine in 1974, is located in the northwestern region of that country beside the southeastern border of Bangladesh. According to recent figures, the territory of Arakan has an area of around 36,762 square kilometers with its capital at Sittwe, and contains a population of over 4 million. The Rohingya constitute around 35% of the province's current population. (A historical overview of the Rohingya crisis, para.1-2)

As we could see that many times this Rohingya issue appeared. Since 1973 they started to flee from Myanmar and came to Bangladesh for their safety due to the persecution of Myanmar

government. It started from 1973 but this continued. As a result, the biggest influx took place in August 2017 when the Myanmar army started their brutality over again and it was one of the heinous acts the world has seen in this era. This brutality is recognized as ethnic cleansing by many humanitarian organizations.

Rohingya has been coming from Myanmar since the 1970s to Bangladesh. In the 1990s, over 250,000 people lived in Bangladeshi refugee camps. All but 20,000 have been repatriated to Myanmar in the early 2000s, some of them against their will. Since August 25, 2017, more than 700,000 Rohingya refugees have fled Myanmar to Bangladesh. **This Rohingya refugee crisis is one of the world's biggest and quickest mass migrations in recent history.**

The Kutupalong camp network, which includes about 26 subcamps, houses over 700,000 of the roughly 880,000 Rohingya refugees sheltering in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh (as of February 2021).

### Rohingya Issue

The contention emerges primarily from the strict and social separation between the Rakhine Buddhists and Rohingya Muslims. Myanmar, the nation at that point known as Burma, dispatches Activity Winged serpent Ruler (Naga Min) in Rakhine state. The Rohingya ethnic minority are considered "illicit" subsequent to being deprived of their citizenship, in this manner starting a pattern of constrained dislodging. During the Second Great War in Burma Rohingya Muslims, who were aligned with the English and guaranteed a Muslim state consequently, battled against nearby Rakhine Buddhists, who were aligned with the Japanese. Following freedom in 1948, the recently shaped association administration of the overwhelmingly Buddhist nation denied citizenship to the Rohingyas, exposing them to broad methodical segregation in the country.

After Myanmar's independence in 1948, the government declared immigration illegal. Citizenship was denied to the Rohingya people. The Rohingyas were excluded from the Union Citizenship Act. In 1982, a new citizenship law was passed that did not include the Rohingya in the country's list of 135 groups. The law established three levels of citizenship, the most basic of which is naturalization, which requires proof of family residency in Myanmar prior to 1947. The Rohingya generally did not lack such documents because, initially, their families were deprived of citizenship. The Rohingya people can apply for two of the three levels of citizenship in the law, but it is usually difficult for them to get citizenship. Before the law was passed, the Rohingya people had the same opportunities as the citizens, but after the law was passed, they were deprived of those opportunities.

### Crackdown on Rohingya

Since the 1970s, various crackdowns on the Rohingya in Rakhine State have constrained many thousands to escape to adjoining Bangladesh, just as Malaysia, Thailand and other Southeast Asian Nations. During such crackdowns, outcasts have regularly announced assault, torment, fire-related

crime and murder by Myanmar security forces. After the killings of nine boundary police in October 2016, the public authority accused what it asserted were warriors from an equipped Rohingya gathering and troops began filling the towns of Rakhine State. A security crackdown on towns where Rohingya resided followed, during which government troops were blamed for a variety of denials of basic liberties, including extrajudicial executing, assault and torching – charges the public authority denied. In November 2016, a UN authority blamed the public authority for completing ethnic purging of the Rohingya.

It was not the first run through such an allegation has been made. In April 2013, for instance, HRW said Myanmar was leading a mission of ethnic purging against the Rohingya. The public authority has reliably denied such allegations. In August, occupants and activists have portrayed soldiers terminating unpredictably at unarmed Rohingya men, ladies and youngsters. The public authority, nonetheless, has said almost 100 individuals were slaughtered after outfitted men from the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Armed force (ARSA) dispatched a strike on police stations in the area. In February 2018, the Related Press delivered a video showing what they say is the site of slaughter and, in any event five undisclosed mass graves of Rohingya in Myanmar. The UN's extraordinary rapporteur to Myanmar said savagery against the Rohingya bears the signs of a massacre. Myanmar's administration leveled in any event 55 towns once populated by Rohingya, annihilating with them proof of violations against the minority.

### Impacts of Rohingya Crisis in Bangladesh:

Because of the ongoing Rohingya crisis, Bangladesh has and will face serious economic, social and environmental challenges. Some impacts or disadvantages are:





# NORDIC Model

## Definition of the Nordic Model

The Nordic Model refers to the economic and social policies that are common or shared to the Nordic countries. This model is used in Scandinavian countries including Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Norway and Iceland. These countries are known for their high living standards and low-income equality, and they are regarded as models of economic equality and opportunities. Scandinavian countries have a robust welfare state that stresses household transfers and publicly supplied social services, human capital investments, and a robust safety net for its citizens.

Basically, The Nordic Model describes how it organized its society in the Nordic countries. The Nordic countries differ from each other in numerous ways, still they all share some common traits. The countries are characterized by high living standards and low-income disparities and known as a model for economic development and opportunity. The Nordic model helps these countries to implement a comprehensive welfare system that emphasizes household transfers and publicly provided social services, investment in human capital and a very strong safety net for citizens.

## The emergence of the Nordic Model

When we discuss the model, we must also consider how the model came to be. Such radical policies cannot be imposed in a single day; they must be phased over time. Let's start with the basics model's timeline, followed by the reasons for its successful implementation. The Nordic model was founded in the mid-1930s under the leadership of social democrats.

However, it started to gain popularity after World War II. The Nordic countries' welfare systems have been running smoothly since before the industrial revolution. The transition of the Nordic Economies from semi-feudal agrarian societies to prosperous welfare states were essentially painless. The rise of self-governing peasants quickly followed the fall of feudalism. The gap between nobility and peasants continued to narrow, suffocating any dissent that might have occurred in society as a result of oppression or economic inequality. As a result, the groundwork for a society free of class conflict was laid. Three polar class systems dominated Scandinavia at the start of the era of mass parties: the high society, the working class, and the peasants. Following this, the Social Democratic Party formed the government in Sweden and Denmark, which was a watershed moment in the country's political history. These nations saw the formation of labor unions, cooperative societies, and

the extension of social rights to larger groups during the period 1920-50. Following that, these nations experienced what is known as a “Golden Period of Welfare.”

During the 1950s and 1980s, the welfare model was expanded to include education, health care, pension plans, and other services for residents through expanding the public sector. These nations developed a strong sense of universalism. It had to be addressed by focusing on enhancing these countries’ global competitiveness, tightening fiscal policy, and boosting exports (Alestalo, et.al, 2009). As a result, these nations have risen to prominence as a center of social welfare and a proponent of free-market policies for growth and development. (Iqbal & Todi, 2015)

### Features of Nordic Model

As mentioned before, the Nordic Model is based on two very important social traits- **Capitalism** and **Socialism**.

**# Free Market Capitalism:** The Nordic Model follows free market implementation. Here, trades, industries, organizations are not handled by the Government. Private ownership is followed here.

**Market Economy:** In a market economy system, production and prices of products, daily used commodities are determined by privately owned businesses.

**Economic Efficiency:** Through this process, production of goods and services are distributed to the most valuable uses. Also, economic efficiency ensures elimination and minimization of wastes.

**# Socialism:** Socialism is another important element of Nordic Model.

**# Strong Social Safety Net (SSN):** Social Safety Net is the implementation of assistance for improving lives for vulnerable families and it ensures social pensions, food distribution to the needy people, fee waivers, cash transfer (Both conditional and unconditional)

**# Universalism:** Universalism ensures all peoples’ equal social rights. Regardless of being a man or woman, Universalism makes sure every human being will not be deprived of any right because of their gender, economic state and etc. Health, education, shelter and other basic rights are equally distributed among the Nordic countries. Statistics show that Nordic countries have a good rate of GDP. This is because all the people here enjoy the same social facilities. As a result, the productivity rate is much higher here, resulting in the growth of GDP rate.

**Innovation:** The Nordic model gives emphasis on research work, which makes the Nordic countries stay in the world ranking in terms of innovation. The taxation system of the Nordic countries is strictly followed. The Government of the Nordic countries ensures massive investment in terms of education. It is seen that the Nordic Model can be termed a role model for countries with corruption.

### How does Nordic model work?

The Nordic model describes how societies have been organized in the Nordic countries. The Nordic countries differ from each other in numerous ways. The Nordics have several things in common, separating them from other countries' work and welfare models. In other words, what distinguishes the Nordic countries from other Western countries, and what do they do better. This insight is what they use to continue developing in the right direction. **The Nordic model isn't static but continually changing in order to meet new societal challenges.**

It still has some stable central characteristics, such as:

1. **A regulated working life** - Rights and responsibilities are primarily protected by law and agreements, with established rules and methods for how employers and workers handle wage formation, conflicts, and other challenges in the labor market. The Nordic countries implemented main national agreements between employers and workers from early on. First was Denmark, where the world's first main agreement was negotiated in 1899, and the other Scandinavian countries followed suit in 1935 and 1936. (Logue, 2018)
2. **Active labor market policies** – The active labor market policies are manifested through their goal of employment for everyone that is able to work. Many welfare measures have this as a purpose.
3. **A high degree of employment** - Full employment has long been an official objective in the Nordic countries.
4. **A strong public sector** – The Nordics also have relatively large public sectors with a lot of responsibility, intervening in the citizens' lives from the cradle to the grave.
5. **Tax-finances universal welfare benefits** – The welfare state is based on workers paying tax, securing welfare benefits to all citizens.



6. **Free healthcare & education** – Healthcare, education, and income security are among the most important welfare benefits provided by the state.

7. **Equality between genders** – The Nordic countries are among the leading countries globally when it comes to female labor force participation. (Witcombe, 2021)

8. **Small, open economies** – The Nordic economies have been small and open economies, proving robust in times of recession and transformation.

The tripartite collaboration is what drives Nordic progress, which is a structured system built upon three integral pillars. If we remove one of the pillars, the structure will collapse. The three pillars of the Nordic model are:

1. **Economic governance** – sitting governments ensure controlled spending, free trade, taxes are paid and employment opportunities are available.
2. **Public welfare** – More people in the work force means greater tax revenues to spend on welfare services for the population, which in turn results in efficient employees.
3. **Organized working** – strong and responsible organizations on both sides push up wages at a measured and responsible rate.

These three pillars work together. **Trust** and **dialogue** are key factors.

### The effectiveness of the Nordic Model

The Nordic model has shown meaningful results. The Nordic countries are regularly found at the top of the rankings of the best countries to live in. Compared to most other countries, they have:

- **A high quality of life for citizens** – the Nordic countries traditionally rank at the top of the global Happiness index.
- **High employment rates** – A high employment rate and economic independence is important. In addition, being part of a work community is regarded as a key to inclusion and quality of life.
- **Equal opportunities for all** – Free education and other universal welfare benefits provide virtually equal opportunities for all.
- **A high degree of trust** – A high degree of trust is an important part of the Nordic model, and often referred to as the very glue that holds the model together; that goes for trust in the government, in the political system, and in each other.
- **Small differences in income** – Relatively small differences in income are primarily due to wage compression and coordinated wage settlements.

## Challenges of the Nordic Model

An important part of the research is looking at what does not work well and what challenges are to be faced in the future. These are some of the challenges the Nordic model faces:

1. **Vulnerable welfare systems** – Their welfare system is entirely dependent on having enough people working. This means that they are vulnerable to population changes, such as an aging population, among other things.
2. **Falling trade union organization** – the level of organization of the workforce has fallen in recent years. This creates challenges for steady working life. The Nordic model is wholly dependent on the robust employer and employee organizations.
3. **An expanded labor market** – New regulations and agreements in Europe increase access to international labor, which often falls outside the agreements between the Nordic employers and employees. It is challenging to secure a decent working life for all and fight social dumping and illicit work.
4. **Inequalities increase** – The gap between the wealthy and the needy grows at an increasing rate. The Nordic model focuses on providing equality and equal opportunities.

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*\*\* The entire content is taken from the POL101 students' submitted papers. I just copied selectively from the submitted papers. Not a single part is my original content.*

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