

EMERGING GEOSTRATEGIC REALIGNMENTS IN ASIA-PACIFIC: IMPLICATIONS FOR CHINA



RESEARCHER

Ayesha Mishal Malik
215/FSS/MSIR/F-22

SUPERVISOR

Dr. Amna Mehmood
Department of History & PS

**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY ISLAMABAD
2024**

Supervisor Certificate

The thesis entitled “**Emerging Geo-Strategic Realignments in Asia-Pacific: Implications for China**” submitted by Ayesha Mishal Malik Registration no. 215-FSS/MSIR/F22 in partial fulfillment of MS degree in International Relations has been completed under my guidance and supervision. I am satisfied with the quality of the student’s research work and allow her to submit this thesis for further process as per IIU rules & regulations.

Signatures: _____

Prof. Dr. Amna Mahmood

Professor

Dept. History and Pak Studies

DECLARATION

By submitting this dissertation, I hereby declare that this thesis entitled “**Emerging Geo-Strategic Realignments in Asia-Pacific: Implications for China**” is my original work. This research work was conducted under the guidance of Dr. Amna Mehmood and submitted to the Department of International Relations in satisfaction of the requirements for the Master's degree in International Relations. I have properly referenced and cited the sources of information in my thesis. This dissertation has not been previously submitted for any degree or qualification.

Ayesha Mishal Malik

215/FSS/MSIR/F-22

Dated: -----

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	i
DEDICATION	ii
LIST OF ABBREVIATION	iii
ABSTRACT	v
CHAPTER ONE	1
INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Rationale of the Study	3
1.2 Statement of the Problem	4
1.3 Significance of the Study	4
1.4 Objectives of the Study	5
1.5 Research Questions	5
1.6 Delimitation of the Study	5
1.8 Theoretical Framework	6
1.7 Literature Review.....	8
1.9 Research Methodology	15
1.9.1 Research Design.....	15
1.9.2 Data Collection	15
1.9.3 Data Analysis.....	16
1.10 Organization of the Study	17
CHAPTER TWO	19
EMERGING GEOSTRATEGIC REALIGNMENTS IN ASIA-PACIFIC	19
2.1 Historical Background	19
2.2 Historical Context of China’s Foreign Policy.....	20
2.3 Recent Developments Leading to Emerging Realignments	23
2.4 Factors driving these realignments	24
2.4.1 China's Rise and Assertiveness.....	25
2.4.2 Changing Power Dynamics.....	26
2.4.3 Economic and Strategic Interests of Regional Actors	28
CHAPTER THREE	31
IMPLICATIONS OF QUAD AND AUKUS ALLIANCE FOR CHINA AND REGIONAL STABILITY IN INDO-PACIFIC	31
3.1 AUKUS Alliance	31
3.1.1 AUKUS and Security Dilemma.....	33
3.2 QUAD Alliance	34
3.2.1 Quad and Security Dilemma	36
3.2.2 QUAD as an Alternative of China’s BRI	37
3.3 Comparative Analysis of QUAD & AUKUS Alliance	38
3.4 Implications for China	39
3.4.1 Economic Implications.....	39
3.4.2 Military Implications	40

3.4.3 Political Implications	41
3.5 Implications for Regional Stability in the Indo-Pacific	42
3.5.1 Regional Unrest	42
3.5.2 Maritime Disputes	42
3.5.3 Impact on Existing Alliances and Partnerships	43
3.5.4 Exacerbation of Arms Race & Security Dilemma	44
3.5.5 Undermining Nuclear Non-Proliferation Regime	44
3.6 Implications for Pakistan	45
3.6.1 Enhanced Security Challenges	45
3.6.2 Pakistan-US Relations	46
3.6.3 Strategic Dilemma	46
3.7 Implications for Russia	47
3.7.1 Geopolitical Implications	47
3.7.2 Military and Security Implications	47
3.7.3 Economic Implications	47
3.7.4 Diplomatic Implications	48
CHAPTER FOUR	49
CHINA’S RESPONSE TO THE FORMATION OF NEW ALLIANCES	49
4.1 Analysis of China’s Strategic Objectives	49
4.2 Analyzing China’s Response to the Formation of AUKUS and QUAD	51
4.2.1 Diplomatic Measures	51
4.2.2 Military Buildup	53
4.2.3 Economic Strategies	54
4.3 Analyzing Russia’s Response to the formation of AUKUS and QUAD	56
4.4 Analyzing the Response of ASEAN Countries to the formation of AUKUS and Quad	57
CHAPTER 5	59
CONCLUSION	59
KEY FINDINGS	60
RECOMMENDATIONS	62
REFERENCES	63

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First and foremost, I am eternally grateful to ALLAH (SWT) the most compassionate who guided me, supported me and empowered me throughout this academic journey. Allah, your grace has given me the strength and resilience to overcome the hurdles and doubts that stood in my way. May I always be grateful for the many blessings you have bestowed upon me Ameen.

The completion of this thesis would not have been possible without the support and guidance of my parents who have contributed their time, knowledge and wisdom to help me complete this thesis and I am forever grateful for their presence in my life.

I extend my sincere appreciation to my supervisor Dr. Amna Mehmood, for her tireless support and guidance. Her exceptional leadership, expertise and dedication to her students are truly inspiring. Her guidance has not only enhanced my knowledge and skills but also instilled in me the confidence to pursue my goals with passion and determination. I appreciate the opportunity to work under her supervision. I feel fortunate to have had an exceptional supervisor for my MS in International Relations.

DEDICATION

***Dedicated To My Parents
Arshad Mehmood Malik & Humaira Arshad***

With immense respect and appreciation, I dedicate this research work to my parents, whose unwavering love, wise guidance and fervent prayers have been my constant source of inspiration and strength throughout my academic journey. Selfless support and encouragement have been a beacon of hope and a driving force behind my success. I appreciate everything they have done for me more than words can express.

Thank you for helping and enabling me to achieve this feat.

LIST OF ABBREVIATION

ADIZ	Air Defense Identification Zone
ARF	ASEAN Regional Forum
ANZUS	Australia, New Zealand, United States
AQuA	AUKUS Quantum Arrangement
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
AUKUS	Australia, United Kingdom, United States
AURAS	AUKUS Undersea Robotics Autonomous Systems
BDN	Blue Dot Network
BRI	Belt and Road Initiative
CIPS	Cross-Border Interbank Payment System
EAS	East Asia Summit
HEU	Highly Enriched Uranium
LEU	Low Enriched Uranium
NPT	Non-Proliferation Treaty
PRC	People's Republic of China
QUAD	Quadrilateral Security Dialogue

RCEP Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership

SCO Shanghai Cooperation Organization

UK United Kingdom

US United States

ABSTRACT

The global geopolitical landscape is undergoing a significant transformation, characterized by shifting alliances and strategic partnerships among nations. This realignment is primarily driven by evolving power dynamics and emerging regional security concerns. China's expanding global influence, exemplified by its ambitious Belt and Road Initiative and ongoing military modernization efforts, has become a key factor in the reevaluation of international relationships. In response to these changes, new strategic alliances have emerged in the Asia-Pacific region. Two notable examples are the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) and the AUKUS partnership, both widely perceived as counterbalances to China's growing regional presence. The Quad, an informal strategic forum comprising the United States, India, Australia, and Japan, aims to promote a free, open, prosperous, and inclusive Indo-Pacific region. Meanwhile, AUKUS represents a trilateral security pact between Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States, with a key focus on enhancing Australia's naval capabilities through the development of nuclear-powered submarines using American technology. However, China sees itself as the target of these partnerships. The formation of these alliances raises questions about their implications for the regional stability and China's security concerns. By using qualitative research method, the research attempts to explore the security implications of QUAD and AUKUS alliance for China and for the regional stability in the Asia-Pacific region and it will also examine the reaction of China towards the formation of these new alliances. The study will use the concept of the security dilemma within the framework of structural realism to analyze these geopolitical shifts and their potential implications for the region's future.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Geo-strategic realignment refers to a significant shift in the geopolitical and strategic alliances, partnerships, and orientations of countries. This can occur due to various factors, including changes in global power dynamics, regional security concerns, economic considerations, and shifts in diplomatic priorities. Geo-strategic realignment often involves nations reassessing their geopolitical positions, forming new alliances, and adapting their foreign policies to better align with evolving circumstances. In the Asia-Pacific region China's growing influence is the main factor in the reevaluation of power dynamics. Geo-strategic realignment in Asia-Pacific involves formation of new alliances, i.e. QUAD and AUKUS Alliance. These new alliances are viewed as a counter strategy to China's growing influence in the region.

The 'Quadrilateral Security Dialogue,' commonly known as the Quad, is an informal strategic forum that includes the United States, India, Australia, and Japan. Its main goal is to promote a free, open, prosperous, and inclusive Asia-Pacific region. The Quad first convened in 2007 during the sidelines of an Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) meeting, with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe proposing its creation. Regarded as an alliance of maritime democracies, the forum operates through various channels, including regular meetings, occasional summits, information sharing, and joint military exercises among the member nations. While not a formal military alliance, the Quad serves as a platform for these four democracies to cooperate on regional security issues and other shared concerns. Since its revival in 2017, the Quad has gained prominence as a significant diplomatic and strategic arrangement in the Indo-Pacific region. The group's focus has expanded beyond traditional security matters to encompass a wide range of

issues, including climate change, critical technologies, and regional health security (Pallardy, 2021).

The main goal of the QUAD is to keep the vital sea routes in the Indo-Pacific open and free from any military or political control. This strategic alliance is seen as a way to counter China's growing influence in the region. The QUAD aims to support a global order based on rules, protect freedom of navigation, and encourage a free trading system. Furthermore, the group strives to offer alternative financing options for countries in the Indo-Pacific to avoid heavy debt burdens.

AUKUS is a strategic defense cooperation established on September 15, 2021, between Australia, the UK, and the US. Under this alliance, the US and the UK will help Australia to acquire nuclear powered submarines. The alliance implies that Australia will terminate the contract with France that was made in 2016 for building 12 diesel submarines that are electric-powered. This marks the first time in the history that the US will share nuclear propulsion technology with an ally (Cuong et al., 2023, 51-58).

The UK, Australia and the US have announced this security agreement in Asia-Pacific, which can be viewed as an alliance for countering China. This is for the first time that Australia will be constructing nuclear-powered submarines with technology from the United States. Analysts believe that the AUKUS agreement marks the most significant defense partnership in decades, extending beyond submarines to include advancements in artificial intelligence and other cutting-edge technologies. These submarines are harder to detect and can shoot missiles at longer distances. Besides submarines, cyber capabilities and other undersea technologies will also be shared (Aukus: UK, US and Australia Launch Pact to Counter China, 2021).

The joint declaration stated, "This is an historic opportunity for the three nations, with like-minded allies and partners, to protect shared values and promote security and prosperity in the

Indo-Pacific region”. Guy Boekenstein said that “This really shows that all three nations are drawing a line in the sand to start and counter China's aggressive moves in the Indo-Pacific” (*Aukus: UK, US and Australia Launch Pact to Counter China*, 2021).

In response to the announcement of this alliance, China’s spokesperson during press briefing stated that “The latest joint statement from the US, UK and Australia demonstrates that the three countries, for the sake of their own geopolitical interests, completely disregard the concerns of the international communities and are walking further and further down the path of error and danger” (Hawkins & Blinken, 2023).

Regarding the infrastructure investment of China at Pacific islands, Western countries have always been cautious about it as well as trade sanctions of China against countries such as Australia, have been criticized by the Western countries. In the previous years, Australia had upheld worthy relationships with China which was its largest trading partner. However, in the current years in the middle of political tensions, relationships have gone down. On the other hand, as Australia turned down the treaty for producing 12 submarines, there is now tension with France too. It was said by Mr. Drian that “We had established a relationship of trust with Australia, this trust has been betrayed” (Gardner, 2023).

1.1 Rationale of the Study

The AUKUS agreement was signed between the US, the UK and Australia and was announced on 15 September 2021, in a joint virtual press conference. The alliance main objective is to enhance the defense capabilities of each member states to protect their interests. While, the Quad alliance, also known as Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, focuses on securing a rule based international order and to work for a free and open Indo-Pacific region. The alliances have multifaceted implications for China and for the regional stability of the region. Being a Pakistani,

the researcher finds it important to explore the implications of AUKUS and QUAD as it will also impact the security of Pakistan.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

AUKUS is the recent alliance deal between UK, US, and Australia that was signed on 15 September 2021, under this alliance, the US and the UK will help Australia to build nuclear powered submarines for its defense in the Indo-Pacific region. The 'Quadrilateral Security Dialogue' also known as Quad is a strategic alliance that comprises of four nations, the US, India, Australia and Japan. The core objective of the QUAD is to work for a free, open, prosperous and inclusive Asia-Pacific region. However, AUKUS and QUAD have implications for the regional stability in the Asia-Pacific region, as it involves the acquisition of nuclear-powered submarines. This study attempts to explore the implications of QUAD and AUKUS alliance for China and for the regional stability of the Asia-Pacific. This research aims to find the challenges of these new alliances for China, and to analyze how China will respond to these alliances.

1.3 Significance of the Study

The study “Emerging Geo-strategic Realignments in Asia-Pacific: Implications for China” is of great importance as AUKUS and QUAD are great deals that involve major powers and AUKUS involves the acquisition of nuclear weapons. The research provides valuable insights into the implications these deals have for China and for the regional stability in the Indo-Pacific. This research will also analyze the possible response of China to the formation of these alliances. This study not only contributes to academic literature but also holds practical significance as it offers policy makers in comprehending the QUAD and AUKUS alliance’s implications for regional peace and stability.

1.4 Objectives of the Study

1. To explore the emerging Geo-strategic realignments in the Asia-Pacific.
2. To explore the implications of new alliances for China and for regional stability in the Indo-Pacific.
3. To analyze the response of China to the formation of new alliances in the Indo-Pacific.

1.5 Research Questions

1. What are the emerging Geo-strategic realignments in the Asia-Pacific?
2. What are the implications of the new alliances for China and for regional stability in the Indo-Pacific?
3. How will China respond to the formation of new alliances in the Indo-Pacific?

1.6 Delimitation of the Study

The study under this research will primarily focus on the QUAD and AUKUS alliance and their implications for China, and Pakistan. Moreover, there is a limitation to seek interviews of the foreign office personnel. Therefore, the study would solely rely on open-source material i.e journals, online reports and articles related to AUKUS and QUAD.

1.8 Theoretical Framework

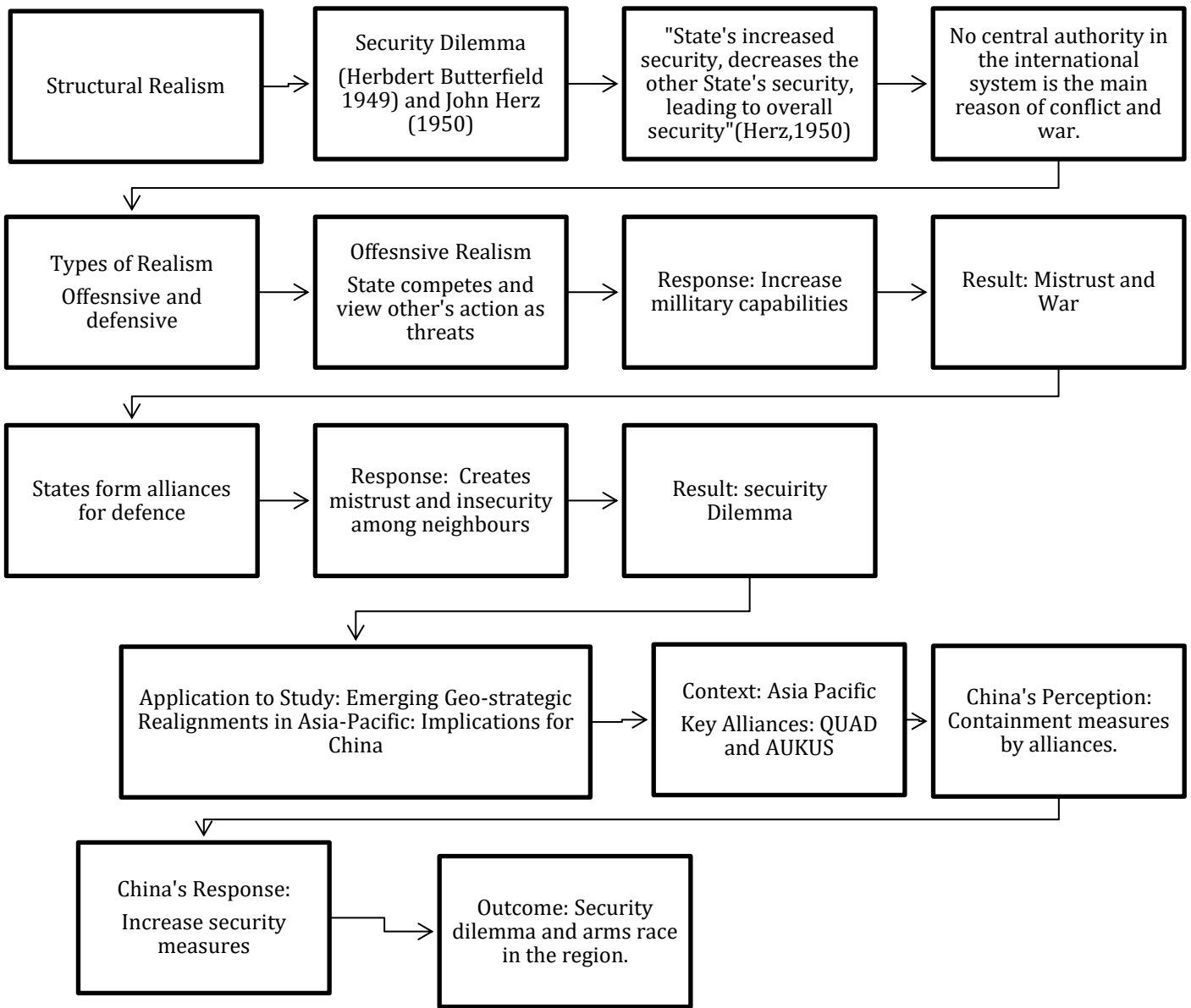
The theory of realism in general and structural realism in particular supports the study “Emerging Geo-strategic Realignments in Asia-Pacific: Implications for China”. Under structural realism, the concept of security dilemma is applied to this study.

The term security dilemma firstly introduced by a Britisher ‘Herbert Butterfield’ in 1949 and was properly described by American social scientists John Herz in 1950. Security dilemma means when a state will increase its own security it causes reactions and decreases others States security which will create insecurity and will decrease security rather than increase security in reality. Most scholars consider it the main reason for conflict and war between the states, in a world where no one has a full monopoly over violence and there is no central authority and governing body in the world (Herz,1950).

The term security dilemma is associated with offensive realism and defensive realism. In the context of offensive realism, a security dilemma is when a state competes with its rivals. The state takes the action of other states as a potential threat for its security and in response, increases its military capabilities to maintain its security (Mearsheimer, 2001). While the defensive realists argue that states take defensive action by forming alliances. These actions create mistrust and insecurity among the neighboring states, and it will lead to a security dilemma (Waltz,1979).

This theory can be applied to this study because the new alliances i.e. QUAD and AUKUS will obviously create insecurity among regional actors especially China as AUKUS involves the acquisition of nuclear-powered submarines and Quad is also viewed as a counter strategy to China’s growing economic influence. China perceives these alliances as a containment measure by AUKUS and QUAD partners. So, in response China will do something for its own security which will create a security dilemma and arms race in the region.

Diagrammatical Illustration of Theoretical Framework



(Herz,1950) Compiled by author

1.7 Literature Review

“Filling the void: The Asia-Pacific problem of order and emerging Indo-Pacific regional multilateralism” discuss the transition of Asia -Pacific to the Indo-Pacific. The article also analyzes that Asia-Pacific focuses on the eastern coast of Asia and the Pacific Ocean while the Indo-Pacific concept focuses on the expanse of Indian ocean and recognizes the growing influence of India. This article highlights the transition of Asia-Pacific to Indo-Pacific and analyzes the contribution of multilateralism in the order building (Wirth & Jenne, 2022, 213-242).

In his article, Sadi Mohmmmod discusses that the AUKUS deal is intended to maintain and expand the military capabilities. He also highlights that it’s the first time in 65 years that the US will share its nuclear technology through this partnership. Furthermore, he discusses the complex China-US relationship and stated that this security pact is signed to counter China’s influence in the Indo-Pacific (Mohammod, 2023).

Hamza in his report “QUAD, AUKUS, and China’s possible response” published in Global Village Space in March 2023, highlights the challenges for China and how China will respond to the formulation of the AUKUS Alliance. This report involves how China will respond to the alliance and face the challenges by building closer bilateral relations with other nations in the region. For example, by deepening the economic relations with South Asia countries through its Belt and Road Initiative (Hamza, 2023).

Rachel Cheung in his article “The AUKUS Deal’s Implications for China ” published in World Politics Review in September 2021, highlights the implications of the AUKUS alliance for China. He also discusses how other states, and regional peace will also be impacted by this alliance. This article involves the details of the implications of this alliance and predicts the response of

China (Cheung, 2021).

In their article “Some awkward truths about AUKUS”, Candace and Anne-Marie discuss that AUKUS alliance will not only affect the states but also affect the security of people. They state that as AUKUS aims at countering a threat and increasing the security of US and its allies, it will create an arms race in the region. The article also analyzes that AUKUS deal might be seen as a green light by other states to add nuclear submarines to increase their security. The authors also state that this deal will also pose a danger for the US itself as it will reduce the credibility of the US government as a leader to maintain the nuclear non-proliferation (Rondeaux & Slaughter, 2022).

In her article, Cheng analyzes the AUKUS alliance as a shift in US global strategy to strengthen its military capability in the Indo-Pacific. The author argues that this deal will not only disturb the international security process but also undermine the foundation of the relevant institutions. The article concludes that peace and cooperation is required for the development in the region and that the state should now engage in deterrence and arms race (Cheng, 2022, 1-7).

Khan in his research article “The AUKUS Alliance and its implications on the non-proliferation treaty” argues that AUKUS has security risks to the Asia-Pacific region. He also states that this alliance will affect the non-proliferation treaty and its future remains in the shadow of the major power interests. He concludes that the deal has propelled the international community to question the credibility of the NPT regime and has a negative impact on the global security (Khan, 2022, 83-94).

In their article “AUKUS Pact in the Perspective of Security Dilemma”, Eryn, Deni and Surryanto discuss the implications of AUKUS alliance on the security dynamics and the stability

of the Indo-Pacific region. The AUKUS Pact is seen as a security dilemma by many countries in the region. The pact involves the transfer of nuclear submarine technology to Australia, which is perceived as a threat by countries like China. The article argues that this perceived threat can lead to an arms race in the region, as countries try to balance their military power against the perceived threat. The pact is also viewed as a mean of balancing China's increasing influence in the region, which can further exacerbate the security dilemma. The authors highlight the ongoing competition among the major powers in the region and the need for countries to balance their military power to ensure their security (Sobarini, Waluyo, & Rajab, 2021).

According to Murad Ali in his article, “How AUKUS and QUAD Challenge the Security Architecture of the Indian Ocean Region: Options for Pakistan”, the Quad and AUKUS, is an important geopolitical dimension of the IOR that aptly affect the region’s security architecture. Over the past two decades, the United States’ involvement in Afghanistan, the rise of China as an emerging power, and increased Indian involvement in great power politics have enhanced the importance of the IOR at the global level. China criticized Quad, likening it to a new version of NATO and expressing concerns about its potential to disrupt regional peace and security. Similarly, China scorned the AUKUS arrangement as the US’s counterbalancing strategy for China in the Asia Pacific region. However, these arrangements have also raised concerns about an arms race and increased strategic competition between Washington and Beijing. Initiatives like AUKUS and Quad do not bode well and may motivate other countries to make political alliances and blocs on the pattern of the Cold War era. Pakistan must emphasize multilateralism and work with regional organizations. Pakistan must bolster its maritime capabilities in the Indian Ocean, strengthening naval forces, improving surveillance, and fostering regional cooperation to safeguard national interests. Pakistan also must enhance ties with non-Quad and non-AUKUS

countries, expanding partnerships, seeking cooperation, and fostering a balanced regional security architecture. Lastly, Pakistan can effectively promote stability in the region by facilitating dialogue and confidence building measures among all countries in the IOR (Ali, 2023).

Zainab Ahmad in her article “Great Power Rivalry in Indo Pacific: Implications for Pakistan” discusses that the Indo-pacific region has become center of competition among the United States, China and the other major powers. The US has been promoting its Indo-Pacific strategy by emphasizing partnerships and alliance to counterbalance China’s influence. China's defense white papers have highlighted that, to deal with the rising security issues, China will develop a blue-water navy and also work on expanding its naval operations. India has also been asserting its role in the region, particularly through its Sagarmala project aimed at doubling its maritime capability. The article highlights that competition between the great powers in the Asia-Pacific region has economic and strategic implications for Pakistan. As it is located at one to the very important locations of Asia-Pacific (Ahmad, 2021).

In their article "Quad in the Indo-Pacific: Role of Informality in Countering China," Ash Rossiter and Brendon J. Cannon describe the Quad as an informal structured alliance. This intergovernmental group, comprising Australia, India, Japan, and the United States, operates with a high degree of informality in the Indo-Pacific region. It serves as a prominent security grouping aimed at addressing long-term security challenges posed by China to both individual members and the group. Instead of forming a formal security alliance, the Quad prioritizes collective security and the protection of each member's sovereignty through its informal structure. This informality is crucial for the Quad, as it allows the four diverse members to coordinate their security efforts while maintaining flexible stances toward China. As a result, Australia, India, Japan, and the United States have progressively enhanced their bilateral, trilateral, and quadrilateral defense and

security relationships (Rossiter & Cannon, 2023).

In their article "The Coming of Quad and the Balance of Power in the Indo-Pacific," Soumyodeep Deb and Nathan Wilson explore the geopolitical situation in the Indo-Pacific region, focusing on strategic responses to China's ascent. They apply the balance of power theory to elucidate the creation and resurgence of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad), which includes the United States, India, Japan, and Australia. The article outlines the evolution of the Indo-Pacific concept, a term initially introduced by former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in 2007 and later embraced by the U.S. during President Donald Trump's administration in 2017, as a strategic approach to combat China's expanding influence. The authors also discuss China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and its assertive foreign policy have heightened security concerns among regional powers, prompting them to adopt balancing strategies. The Quad, initially formed in 2007 and revitalized in recent years, serves as a mechanism for external balancing, with activities such as joint military exercises and strategic dialogues aimed at maintaining regional stability. The article also discusses China's strategic initiatives, including the BRI and its associated projects, which are perceived as efforts to extend its influence and potentially overturn the regional balance of power. The concept of "debt-trap diplomacy," exemplified by the Hambantota port in Sri Lanka, is highlighted as a tactic used by China to gain strategic assets. The future of the Quad is explored, with the possibility of expanding to include other nations like France and the United Kingdom, reflecting shared concerns about China's rise. The article concludes that the balance of power theory remains highly relevant in the Indo-Pacific context, driven by the rise of China and the strategic responses from other regional powers. The Quad, while not yet a formal military alliance, represents a significant effort to maintain stability of the region and to counteract China's growing influence, with its future trajectory dependent on the

evolving geopolitical landscape (Deb & Wilson, 2021).

Hamzah Rifaat Hussain in his report "AUKUS- Futuristic Military Unfolding in Indo-Pacific Region" examines the implications of the AUKUS security pact on regional stability and Pakistan. He also highlights that the AUKUS pack has been criticized for weakening the non-proliferation treaty and promoting nuclear-powered submarine against China. The report advises that Pakistan should denounce unilateral efforts to nuclearize the Asia-Pacific region through alliances like AUKUS and consistently advocate for dialogue to reduce tensions. It underscores that AUKUS introduces a new dimension to regional security, potentially triggering nuclear proliferation, sparking an arms race, and undermining regional prosperity and stability. The report also stresses the necessity for Pakistan to pursue diplomatic and political strategies to address the implications of this pact on both regional stability and its own security (Hussain, 2022).

Dr. Sajid Mehmood Shahzad and Muhammad Rafi Khan in their article "Quad: The U.S. Strategic Alliance for the Indo-Pacific Region and the Chinese Counterbalance" explore the different theoretical perspective to understand the role of Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) in the Indo-Pacific and its implications for the regional security and stability in the region. It highlights the Quad's significance in the context of the U.S. strategy in the region, particularly in relation to China's economic influence. The authors discuss the Quad as a means of containing China's military and political ambitions and highlights the potential reactions of Quad member nations, including India, Japan, and Australia. The authors argue that The Quad's members, including India, Japan, and Australia, are unlikely to take aggressive actions against China due to their economic dependence on Chinese imports and exports (Shahzad & Khan, 2022).

In her research paper "What is the Quad Aiming to Do in the Asia Pacific Region?", Zainab

Zaheer emphasizes that the Quad unites its member countries in response to China's increasing dominance and aims to uphold a “free and open Indo-Pacific.” One of the main objective of the Quad is to decrease the region's dependence on supply chains dominated by China. Former U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo emphasized the need for cooperation within the Quad to protect their countries and allies from what he described as exploitation, corruption, and coercion by the Chinese Communist Party. He pointed to incidents in various regions including the South China Sea, East China Sea, Mekong River, Himalayas, and Taiwan Straits. In contrast, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi criticized the Quad, accusing it of being an anti-China initiative led by the United States aimed at containing China and obstructing its Belt and Road Initiative. Wang Yi argued that the Quad promotes a Cold War mentality, incites confrontation among various groups, and fuels geopolitical competition (Zaheer, 2022).

Hananah Zarrar and Aqeel Ahmed Gichki analyze in their article, “QUAD to AUKUS: Implementations for the region and beyond”, that China's rise as an economic powerhouse and the recent U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan have heightened the U.S.'s focus on its offshore balancing strategy. Alongside the strategic partnership between India and the U.S, the U.S. has recently raised concerns about an arms race and the erosion of the nuclear non-proliferation regime by introducing the AUKUS alliance alongside the revival of the Quad. These regional strategic initiatives pose significant threats to regional peace and overall strategic stability. The region, and particularly Pakistan, is expected to face increased security challenges that will need to be addressed (Zarrar & Gichki, 2022, 119-135).

Despite numerous studies on the QUAD and AUKUS Alliance. Current research still lacks comprehensive analysis of how these alliances impact China’s growing influence. Specifically, there is a need for further research on the implications of the QUAD and AUKUS alliance for

China's security and how China will potentially respond to counter these alliances. Additionally, there is a need for in-depth analysis of the possible response or measures China and would take in response to the formation of these alliances to maintain its security.

1.9 Research Methodology

The present study focuses on the analysis of the challenges and implications of new alliances for China's influence in the region. The researcher uses qualitative research design to explore the implications of new alliances for China and for the regional stability in the Indo-Pacific region. Furthermore, exploratory and descriptive approach will be used for analyzing the potential response of China to the formation of these alliances. Data will be collected from secondary data sources. Such as, research works, books, articles, journals, reports, jstore, research papers and articles of the leading newspaper and books will utilize in this study. Moreover, several websites and YouTube content will be used in the data collection. The overall analysis aims at understanding the new alliances, their objectives and their challenges for China.

1.9.1 Research Design

This study will be based on the qualitative research method and qualify in the descriptive and exploratory data because in this study we will describe the QUAD and AUKUS alliance and also explore the implications of these alliances for China and for regional stability in the Indo-Pacific.

1.9.2 Data Collection

The secondary and primary data collection will be used to find out and elaborate on the aspects of the study. The secondary data for this study will involve news articles, journals, reports

and research papers. The primary data will involve official documents from government institutions like the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The White House and Australian Submarine Agency would be used for content analysis.

1.9.3 Data Analysis

Content data analysis technique will be used in this study through which the content of official documents, media sources and textual data will be analyzed to understand the QUAD and AUKUS alliance and their implications for China and Indo-Pacific region.

1.10 Organization of the Study

Chapter One

The first chapter introduces the research and sets the stage for the study. It begins with an overview and presents the research questions and objectives. This chapter also highlights the importance of the research, outlines the problem statement, and defines the significance of the study. Additionally, it includes a review of the relevant literature, discusses the theoretical framework, explains the research methodology, and provides an outline of the entire research structure. Following the introduction, the research is divided into four main chapters.

Chapter Two

The second chapter of this research is Emerging Geo-Strategic Realignments in Asia-Pacific. The traditional alliances, the recent developments leading to the emerging realignment, the factors driving these realignments i.e. China's rise and assertiveness, changing power dynamics and economic and strategic interests of regional actors have been discussed in this chapter.

Chapter Three

The third chapter of the study has focused on the Implications of QUAD and AUKUS alliance for China and Regional Stability in Indo-Pacific. This chapter has also discussed about the challenges and opportunities of Quad and AUKUS for China, Russia and Pakistan.

Chapter Four

The fourth chapter of this research has analyzed the Potential Response of China to the Formation of QUAD and AUKUS Alliance. The chapter has also discussed about the historical context of China's foreign policy, its strategic objectives and diplomatic and economic measures China will take to counterbalance these alliances.

Chapter Five

The fifth chapter of this research focuses on Conclusion, Key Findings, and Recommendations. This chapter wraps up the study, offering a detailed summary of the findings along with recommendations. It concludes with a list of the research sources used.

CHAPTER TWO

EMERGING GEOSTRATEGIC REALIGNMENTS IN ASIA-PACIFIC

2.1 Historical Background

The history of traditional alliances and the security arrangements in the Asia-Pacific region has their roots in the aftermath of the World War II and the cold war era, these alliances were formed for the protection against the security threats and to promote the regional stability.

After World War II, the emergence of new nation-states, decolonization movements and geopolitical tensions characterized the Asia-Pacific region. These factors caused security threats and instability in the region. The US emerged as a dominant power in the region and the US established a network of bilateral security treaties and alliances with the major countries in the region to maintain stability in the region and for the protection against the security threats. The most significant alliance that was formed during this period was 'Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security between the United States and Japan' commonly known as the US-Japan Security Treaty signed in San Francisco on 8 September 1951 and ratified in 1952. This treaty was a security cooperation between US and Japan in response to the security concerns arising from the Korean War. The agreement highlighted that Japan would allow US forces to remain on its soil after Japan will regain sovereignty. This treaty marked a significant role in the normalization of relations between the United States and Japan. It not only reaffirmed their alliance but also signaled Japan's reintegration into the community of nations as a sovereign and responsible member (Gluck, 2005).

During the Cold War, The ANZUS treaty formally known as the Australia, New Zealand, United States Security Treaty was signed in 1951 between Australia, New Zealand and the US for

the mutual defense and security cooperation in response to the threats to the security of the Asia-Pacific region. Another main concern was the expansion of Soviet expansionism in the region. The treaty played a significant role in shaping the security dynamics in the Asia-Pacific region, it provided a framework of cooperation between its member states and was also an important factor to maintain stability and deterrence in the region (Robb & Gill, 2015).

In recent years, traditional alliances and security arrangements in the Asia-Pacific have evolved to address emerging security challenges. This includes a greater emphasis on non-traditional security threats such as cyber security, climate change, and pandemics, as well as the integration of new technologies and capabilities into defense strategies. Additionally, traditional alliances have expanded to include new partners and stakeholders. For example, the US-Japan Security Treaty has been supplemented by broader security cooperation between the US, Japan, and other regional allies such as South Korea and Australia. Similarly, ASEAN led forums such as the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) have provided platforms for dialogue and cooperation on regional security issues, complementing traditional alliances (Kainikara, 2012).

2.2 Historical Context of China's Foreign Policy

China's foreign policy has undergone a remarkable transformation since the establishment of the People's Republic of China in 1949. The country has risen from an economically weak state to a major power in the international system, becoming a significant player in the emerging multipolar world order, largely due to its steadily growing economic influence. To understand how China might respond to the formation of new alliances, it is crucial to examine the evolution of its foreign relations since 1949. Two key leaders have played pivotal roles in shaping China's foreign policy during this period: Mao Zedong, the founder of the PRC, and Deng Xiaoping, the architect of China's reform and "open door" policies. Mao's foreign policy was rooted in his vision of global

revolutionary socialism, which led China to align closely with the Soviet Union and support anti-colonial movements around the world. In contrast, Deng's reforms and opening up of the Chinese economy to the global market transformed the country's foreign policy approach, shifting it towards a more pragmatic and economically driven strategy. These two distinct eras in China's foreign relations have had a profound impact on its current position and potential responses to the changing geopolitical landscape, including the emergence of new strategic alliances in the Indo-Pacific region (Khan H. , 2006).

Under Mao Zedong's leadership, China's foreign policy was primarily focused on ensuring its survival, security, and self-reliance in the international arena. Mao's main objectives were to protect China's national sovereignty, and territorial integrity, and enhance its global standing.

In the early years of the People's Republic, China followed a "lean to one side" policy, aligning itself closely with the Soviet Union against the perceived threat from the United States and its allies. This strategic partnership was formalized in the Sino-Soviet Treaty of Friendship, Alliance, and Mutual Assistance in 1950. However, by the early 1970s, China's foreign policy underwent a significant shift. Concerned by the growing Soviet threat, Mao and his successors sought to improve relations with the United States as a counterbalance. This "triangular diplomacy" during the Cold War era culminated in the normalization of Sino-American relations and the establishment of strategic cooperation between China and the U.S. Throughout this period, China's foreign policy remained focused on safeguarding its national interests, even if it meant adapting to changing geopolitical realities. The country's leaders recognized the need to balance against perceived threats while also pursuing economic development and enhancing China's international influence (Dreyer, 2007).

Under Deng Xiaoping's leadership, China's foreign policy underwent a significant transformation. Deng came to power in the late 1970s, and he made the economy the nation's top priority, initiating the "reform and opening" movement. Deng's foreign policy agenda had a broad scope, encompassing opening up to the outside world, achieving national reunification, securing global and regional stability, and establishing a new international political and economic order. This marked a departure from Mao Zedong's approach, which had rejected the existing international system's rules and sought change through revolutionary means. During Deng's tenure, China focused on expanding its international profile by increasing its partnerships with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, including financial institutions like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. This gradual integration into the global system represented a shift away from the Mao-era isolation. The primary objective of Deng's foreign policy was to ensure a stable international environment that would foster China's economic development. This pragmatic approach emphasized the importance of maintaining peaceful relations and increasing China's international influence through diplomatic and economic means, rather than through revolutionary upheaval (Khan H. , 2006).

In the recent years, China has significantly expanded its economic influence on the global stage. The country has transitioned from an agrarian-based society to become the world's second largest economy. China now boasts a booming domestic market, fueled by its vast and economically active population of over 791 million workers, the largest labor force globally. This large human resource base has been a key driver of China's rapid economic growth and development. Furthermore, China has emerged as the world's most lucrative destination for foreign direct investment (FDI), receiving \$163 billion in inflows as of 2020, surpassing the United States. This underscores the country's appeal as an investment hub, owing to its massive consumer market,

manufacturing capabilities, and strategic location. China's economic ascent has been truly remarkable. From an economically weak state in the past, the country has transformed into a global economic superpower, exerting significant influence through its trade, investment, and economic policies (Silver, Devlin, & Huang, 2019).

2.3 Recent Developments Leading to Emerging Realignments

The shift in the Asia-Pacific region's security arrangements and realignments is influenced by some recent events and trends. China's rise and assertiveness is one of the most significant factors that has reshaped the regional dynamics in the Asia-Pacific. China has risen to become the world's second-largest economy, driven by its swift economic expansion over the past several decades. China's focus on the massive infrastructure development, market reforms and export-oriented industrialization as well as larger force has fueled its economic growth. Its economic growth has led to increase trade and investment flows that has also made China a major player in the global economy (Manzoor, 2021).

China has also focused on its military modernization program aiming to enhance its defense capabilities. It has been heavily investing in the military capabilities that includes naval expansion, advanced weaponry, space technology and cyber warfare capabilities. These efforts have raised concerns among the neighboring countries and major powers especially the US about the China's strategic intentions.

China's assertiveness is notably visible in its territorial conflicts, especially in the South China Sea. Through the creation of artificial islands, the development of military bases, and the establishment of an Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ), China has reinforced its maritime claims over extensive areas of the South China Sea. This aggressive stance has heightened tensions

with neighboring nations like Vietnam, the Philippines, and Japan, as well as with the United States. In response, the US has carried out freedom of navigation operations to contest China's claims in the region (Awan, 2023).

China's rise and assertiveness have significantly impacted regional dynamics in the Asia-Pacific. To counter China's assertiveness, shifts in power balances, security perceptions, and strategic calculations among neighboring countries have occurred. Some countries have responded by strengthening their defense ties with traditional allies such as the United States and establishing new security partnerships against China to combat its growing influence and assertiveness in the region.

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is a strategy developed by China to link Asia, Africa, and Europe through a series of land and sea routes. The initiative was launched in 2013 under the leadership of President Xi Jinping. Inspired by the ancient Silk Road, which facilitated trade between China and the Mediterranean over many centuries, Xi Jinping envisioned a modern network connecting Asia, Africa, and Europe. The BRI's main focus is to improve integration of the region, increase trade, and enhance economic growth. /the BRI has also raised concerns about geopolitical influence, and strategic encroachment in neighbor countries (McBride, Berman, & Chatzky, 2023).

2.4 Factors driving these realignments

Several factors are driving the geostrategic realignment in Asia-Pacific that are discussed in this section including, China's rise and assertiveness, changing power dynamics and Economic and strategic interests of the regional actors.

2.4.1 China's Rise and Assertiveness

Over the past few decades China has been focusing on significant investment in military modernization, including the development of advanced weapons and naval capabilities. China has heavily invested in infrastructure by developing roads, railways, ports, and telecommunications. China's BRI is one of the most significant development programs that aims to enhance the connectivity and to promote cooperation between China and countries in Asia, Europe and Africa. Moreover, China has been participating in the global supply chains through which it has been able to access international markets and technology. Its rapid economic growth has elevated it to become the world's second largest economy in the world. However, the emergence of China as the largest economy has raised concerns for US economy, some of the US policy makes have express concern that China will overtake the US as the world's largest economy. China's rise is viewed as the US decline (McBride, Berman, & Chatzky, 2023).

To maintain its economic expansion, China's priority is to establish control over the territories and seas that Beijing views as belonging to China, most importantly Taiwan and the South China Sea. China has now adopted an increasingly assertive behavior towards South China Sea by strengthening its fishery law enforcement and constructing both civilian and military infrastructure on contested islands and waters. This increased assertiveness over sovereignty and maritime rights has led to disputes with neighboring maritime nations such as Japan, Indonesia, and the Philippines. China's expanding influence is significantly impacting the strategic alignment decisions of countries in the region (Morton, 2016).

In response to China's rise and assertiveness, some regional actors have sought closer security cooperation with traditional allies such as the United States or formed new alliances and

partnerships to counterbalance China's influence. This includes enhanced military cooperation, joint exercises, and strategic dialogues aimed at bolstering regional security.

2.4.2 Changing Power Dynamics

The Asia-Pacific region has been a center of economic growth and strategic influence, changing the dynamics of global power. This change is driven by the rise of China and India, the growing influence of ASEAN, and the resurgence of Japan and South Korea. These developments have increased the region's significance in the 21st century. Following the ongoing challenges to the dominance of the Western powers, these developments and shifts in the environment have posed questions about the future of global stability and security (Kiran, 2023).

China's growing influence plays a significant role in the changing power dynamics. China's rapid economic growth and assertive foreign policy and military modernization have made it a key player on the global stage since the late 1970s. Its initiatives like the Belt and Road, tech giants like Alibaba, and military activities in the South China Sea are challenging the US-led international order. China is now ranked as second largest economy of the world, so its actions and policies significantly impact global stability (Akdag, 2023).

India is also emerging as a major Asian power and has the capability to play a major role in the region due to its young population, IT sector and strategic locations. However, challenges like infrastructure issues, social inequality, and persistent poverty complicate its rise and the region's power dynamics (Kiran, 2023).

Japan and South Korea, both major global players, are repositioning themselves amidst this shift. Their strong economies, military capabilities, and alliances with the US influence the

regional balance of power. ASEAN also plays a critical role in regional diplomacy, ensuring it has a voice in shaping the region's future through platforms like the East Asia Summit and the ASEAN Regional Forum (Kiran, 2023).

Additionally, the Pacific powers, especially the US and Australia are crucial to the changing landscape. The US must reevaluate its Asia-Pacific strategy to deal with these new regional forces while Australia seeks to balance its regional economic interests and long-standing alliances. These changing power dynamics have a significant effect on global stability. Firstly, they create a potential for unrest and conflict, as seen in the South China Sea where various nations are asserting their territorial claims and supporting these claims with military showdowns (Akdag, 2023).

Secondly, these changing dynamics also present opportunities for cooperation and multilateralism. However, this depends on the countries, if they can manage disagreements and rivalries and focus on building inclusive and effective regional institutions. Thirdly, the changing landscape can also result in new economic changes that can reshape the international relationships in economic aspects, as seen with the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), a major free trade agreement. Additionally, Asia-Pacific nations gaining power may push for international institutions to better reflect their interests, potentially reshaping global norms (Akdag, 2023).

These shifts in the power dynamics could increase tensions and conflicts, especially between the countries with different political systems and ideologies as they compete for the global influence, notably the US and China. There are a few things that are crucial to maintain global stability amid these changing power dynamics. Firstly, it is crucial to promote a cooperative

regional order based on mutual respect. Secondly, it is essential to peacefully resolve disputes according to international law and strengthen regional and international institutions to facilitate communication and cooperation (Akdag, 2023).

2.4.3 Economic and Strategic Interests of Regional Actors

Economic factors play a pivotal role in shaping security alignments and partnerships in the Asia-Pacific region. Several key economic considerations influence the strategic calculations and alliance choices of countries in the region.

Trade Interdependence

The concept of trade interdependence plays a significant role in shaping the security policies and alliance choices of countries in the Asia-Pacific region. Countries that have developed deep trade and investment linkages tend to prioritize the stability and continuity of these economic ties in their strategic calculations. Faced with the imperative of protecting their mutual economic interests, such countries are more inclined to pursue cooperative security partnerships. These partnerships are designed to safeguard the stability and uninterrupted flow of trade and investment between the allied nations. The recognition that their economic prosperity is inextricably linked to the health of these cross-border economic relationships leads countries to prioritize the preservation of these linkages in their national security policies. Consequently, they are more likely to engage in collaborative security arrangements that enhance the resilience and sustainability of their shared economic interests. This dynamic underscores the intricate relationship between economic interdependence and security alignments in the Asia-Pacific. Countries are increasingly cognizant of the need to balance their economic and security considerations, often opting for

security partnerships that safeguard their mutually beneficial trade and investment ties (Grieco & Kavanagh, 2024).

Access to Critical Resources

The imperative to secure access to critical resources, such as energy and minerals, has emerged as a significant driver of strategic alignments in the Asia-Pacific region. Countries in the region are keenly aware of the importance of ensuring an uninterrupted supply of these vital economic inputs. To address this concern, countries may forge security alliances or other cooperative arrangements. These partnerships are designed to safeguard the reliable flow of essential resources, which are crucial for sustaining economic growth and development. By aligning with other nations that share similar resource security imperatives, countries can enhance their collective bargaining power, diversify supply sources, and mitigate the risks of potential disruptions. This, in turn, strengthens their economic competitiveness and resilience in the face of resource-related challenges. The pursuit of resource security has, therefore, become a significant factor shaping the strategic calculations and alliance-building efforts of countries in the Asia-Pacific. The need to guarantee access to critical inputs for economic prosperity has emerged as a key driver of the evolving security architecture in the region (Grieco & Kavanagh, 2024).

Protection of Economic Interests:

The imperative to safeguard vital economic lifelines, such as maritime trade routes and shipping lanes, is another crucial factor shaping security partnerships in the Asia-Pacific region. Countries in the region recognize the importance of ensuring uninterrupted trade and protecting their economic interests. To address this concern, countries are increasingly aligning with one another to collectively ensure the security and uninterrupted operation of these critical economic arteries. By forging security partnerships, they aim to mitigate the risks of disruptions, piracy, or

other threats that could jeopardize the smooth flow of trade and commerce. The protection of these economic lifelines has become a key strategic priority for countries in the Asia-Pacific. They understand that the stability and prosperity of their economies are inextricably linked to the security and accessibility of the region's maritime trade routes and shipping lanes. Consequently, the need to safeguard these vital economic interests has emerged as a significant driver of security alignments and cooperative arrangements among countries in the Asia-Pacific. By pooling their resources and coordinating their efforts, they seek to maintain the free and open movement of goods, services, and capital that underpins the region's economic dynamism (Ravenhill, 2013).

In conclusion, the interplay between economic interdependence, resource security, and the protection of commercial interests has become a key aspect of the changing security landscape in the Asia-Pacific region. Countries are calibrating their strategic choices to maintain a balance between economic prosperity and national security considerations.

CHAPTER THREE

IMPLICATIONS OF QUAD AND AUKUS ALLIANCE FOR CHINA AND REGIONAL STABILITY IN INDO-PACIFIC

3.1 AUKUS Alliance

AUKUS is referred to as a trilateral partnership between Australia, the UK and the US that was announced in September 2021. The partnership aims to enhance the ability of these member governments to support their defense interests and focuses on building stronger bilateral ties. The announcement began the 18-month joint plan for assembling the new Australian nuclear-powered submarines. This will make Australia the seventh country in the world to have nuclear powered submarines (Julian Borger, 2021).

A central element of AUKUS is a partnership between the United States and the United Kingdom aimed at assisting Australia in acquiring nuclear-powered submarines for its navy. These submarines, known as SSN-AUKUS, will be based on the UK's latest submarine design and will incorporate state-of-the-art technologies from all three nations, including advanced submarine technology from the United States. This submarine is specifically tailored to meet Australia's long-term defense requirements. The SSN-AUKUS will incorporate US technologies such as propulsion systems, vertical launch systems, and weaponry. Additionally, AUKUS partners will collaborate on developing a joint combat system that expands upon the existing US-Australia combat capabilities. Australia aims to deliver its first domestically built submarine by the early 2040s (Australian Submarine Agency, n.d.).

Cybersecurity has also been a priority, with the partners working diligently to enhance the protection of critical communications and operations systems against evolving digital threats. The alliance has placed significant emphasis on artificial intelligence and autonomy, exploring innovative applications of these technologies to improve operational effectiveness in challenging environments. Additionally, AUKUS members are collaborating on the development of advanced hypersonic and counter-hypersonic capabilities, recognizing the growing importance of these technologies in modern warfare. Lastly, the partnership is focusing on electronic warfare, aiming to ensure that allied forces can operate effectively in contested electromagnetic environments. Through these diverse and ambitious initiatives, AUKUS demonstrates its commitment to maintaining a technological edge in defense and security, leveraging the combined expertise and resources of its member nations to address the complex challenges of the 21st-century geopolitical landscape (The White House, 2022).

There are several key reasons of the formation of AUKUS including countering China's influence, strengthening alliances and technological superiority. None of the AUKUS partners mentioned China but there's no doubt that the partnership is a response to China's growing military and economic strength and its expansionist drive in the South China Sea and increasing assertiveness towards Taiwan. AUKUS also seeks to enhance the defense capabilities of its member nations, making the overall security network in the Indo-Pacific stronger. Moreover, The alliance focuses on using advanced technologies to keep its members at the cutting edge of military innovation (Julian Borger, 2021).

3.1.1 AUKUS and Security Dilemma

The AUKUS alliance can create a security dilemma in the Indo-Pacific region due to several factors. The alliance is perceived by the countries in the region such as Indonesia and Malaysia, as a counter strategy to China's increasing influence and power. These countries are concerned that AUKUS's nuclear-powered submarines can escalate an arms race in the region leading to security dilemma (Umar & Santoso, 2023).

The proliferation of nuclear-powered submarines and other advanced military technologies in the Indo-Pacific can lead to a Cold War-like scenario, where countries engage in balancing strategies and counter-balancing measures to maintain their relative power and influence. This can create a security dilemma, as countries become increasingly suspicious of each other's intentions and engage in an escalating cycle of military buildups (Hanggarinia, Madjid, Perwita, & Wiranto, 2023).

From the perspective of the security dilemma, when a country enhances its military capabilities, it prompts other nations to bolster their own military strength, potentially leading to an arms race. The formation of the AUKUS pact between Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States in the Indo-Pacific region can be viewed as a response to perceived security threats from China's rising power and influence. While the AUKUS agreement itself may not constitute a full-fledged arms race at present, it has the potential to increase tensions in the region. The pact, which includes provisions for Australia to acquire nuclear-powered submarines, reflects the security concerns of its member states regarding China's growing military capabilities. This dynamic illustrates how the security dilemma can drive military competition in the Asia-Pacific region. As countries seek to bolster their defense in response to perceived threats, it can lead other nations to view these actions as potentially aggressive, prompting them to enhance their own

military capabilities. This cycle of action and reaction can contribute to a broader pattern of increasing militarization across the region. Observers note that this regional trend indicates an emerging arms race in the Asia-Pacific, with the security dilemma driving this competitive dynamic among several countries. As nations in the region continue to modernize and expand their armed forces, there is a risk of escalating tensions and potential instability if not managed through diplomatic channels and confidence-building measures (Fariani & Sholeh, 2020).

To safeguard their interests, states often aim to control or neutralize adjacent areas. The Indo-Pacific region, sharing borders with Southeast Asian nations that are members of ASEAN, significantly impacts these countries. Therefore, ASEAN states must protect their interests and strive to stabilize the Indo-Pacific region. In response to the AUKUS Pact, ASEAN, as a prominent regional organization, must enhance its influence and power within the Indo-Pacific. The controversy surrounding AUKUS could escalate into conflict and an arms race, especially among those opposed to the pact, leading to increased power projection efforts in the region. Consequently, ASEAN needs to assert its central role and demonstrate a unified stance. Strengthening regional architecture is essential for maintaining peace, security, and stability. ASEAN has positioned itself as a unifying force in East Asia and the Asia-Pacific, making it a crucial hope for the Indo-Pacific region to remain a neutral and independent stabilizing entity (Sobarini, Waluyo, & Rajab, 2021).

3.2 QUAD Alliance

The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, or Quad, emerged from a collaborative humanitarian effort following the devastating 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. The United States, Japan, India, and Australia joined forces to provide disaster relief, laying the groundwork for future cooperation. In

2007, then-Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe formalized the partnership, envisioning a strategic alliance of like-minded democracies. The Quad's initial focus was on promoting regional stability and addressing common security concerns. After a period of relative inactivity, the Quad was revived in 2017 in response to shifting geopolitical dynamics, particularly China's growing regional influence. The alliance's scope expanded to encompass broader strategic objectives, including advocating for a free and open Indo-Pacific region, upholding international law and maritime security, and promoting a rules-based international order. Today, the Quad serves as a platform for its members to coordinate policies, conduct joint military exercises, and collaborate on various initiatives aimed at maintaining regional stability and prosperity (Shankar IAS Parliament, 2021).

The primary goal of the QUAD is to maintain the strategic sea routes in the Indo-Pacific region free from military or political interference. This alliance is fundamentally designed to address the expanding influence of China. Additionally, the QUAD aims to uphold a global order based on rules, promote a liberal trading system, and ensure freedom of navigation. It also focuses on tackling global challenges such as climate change, cybersecurity, the sharing of critical technologies, and promoting infrastructure and connectivity projects (Forum IAS, 2022).

The QUAD has emerged as a pivotal player in shaping the strategic dynamics of the Indo-Pacific region. Originally formed without direct intent to counter China, it now serves as a significant counterbalance to China's expanding influence in the area. The alliance focuses on advancing a framework based on international rules and norms while fostering deeper strategic collaboration among its member nations. Moreover, the QUAD provides a platform for ongoing dialogue and coordination on regional issues, thereby promoting greater cooperation and stability in the region. Additionally, the coalition seeks to provide alternative forms of debt financing to

countries in the Indo-Pacific, enhancing economic resilience and reducing dependency on single-state initiatives (Smith, 2021).

3.2.1 Quad and Security Dilemma

The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) can lead to security Dilemma in several ways. The Quad's primary purpose is to counterbalance China's growing military and economic influence in the Indo-Pacific region. This can lead to an escalation of tensions between China and the Quad members, particularly the United States, Japan, Australia, and India. The Quad's military buildup and strategic cooperation can be seen by China as a threat, which may prompt China to increase its military presence in the region that would further escalate the tensions (Hines, 2020).

The Quad's security dilemma arises from the fact that each member state is strengthening its military capabilities to combat China's expanding power. This can lead to a situation where each side perceives the other's actions as a threat, leading to a self-reinforcing cycle of military buildup and increased tensions. This dynamic can create a security dilemma, where the actions of one side are perceived as a threat by the other, leading to a spiral of escalation (Hines, 2020).

China views the Quad as a threat and a scheme by the United States to maintain its hegemony. China's response to the Quad can include increasing its military presence in the region, which can further escalate tensions and create a security dilemma. This dynamic can lead to a situation where the Quad members feel compelled to increase their military capabilities to counter China's growing power, further exacerbating the security dilemma (Chen, 2022).

The Quad could also be seen as potentially falling into what's known as the Thucydides trap, a concept introduced by Graham Allison. This theory suggests that when a rising power like China challenges the dominance of an established power such as the United States, it often leads

to conflict or war. The Quad's strategic alignment and military cooperation can be seen as a response to China's rise, which may lead to a Thucydides trap, where the Quad members are trapped in a cycle of competition and escalation (Akimoto, 2022).

In conclusion, the Quad alliance can lead to a security dilemma due to the escalating tensions between China and the Quad members and the Thucydides trap and the China's perception of Quad as a threat to its growing influence. These factors can create a cycle of competition and escalation between the states, and it would become challenging for the Quad to achieve its goal of maintaining peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

3.2.2 QUAD as an Alternative of China's BRI

In 2021, the QUAD broadened its focus to include the provision of global public goods like vaccines, cybersecurity, critical and emerging technologies (CET), and guidelines for the sustainable use of outer space. These are areas where China has been active through its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), addressing the domestic and economic needs of countries in the region. By offering these goods as alternatives, the QUAD is using a softer strategy to counter China's influence in the region. Furthermore, the Quad members initiated a program commonly known as Blue Dot Network. This program is not officially a QUAD program but it is related to the QUAD'S goals of promoting a free, open and rules-based order in the region (Rehman, 2023).

The Blue Dot Network's main goal is to help smaller countries build high-quality infrastructure that meets international standards, with a strong focus on promoting transparency and openness in investments. This approach highlights the lack of transparency and adherence to international standards often associated with China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The BDN also supports the sovereignty of nations by offering alternative development funding, reducing

their reliance on Chinese investments that can sometimes lead to debt dependency (Sundararaman, 2021).

However, BDN faces several significant challenges related to funding geopolitical dynamics, and operational capacity that may hinder its effectiveness in countering China's influence in the Indo-Pacific region. BDN currently lacks the financial backing to compete directly with the BRI, which has mobilized substantial state resources for infrastructure projects globally. Critics argue that the BDN's funding is insufficient to match China's scale of investment in developing countries. As it is still relatively new, its principles and benefits need to be effectively communicated to the countries to gain support. The BDN operates within a complex geopolitical landscape characterized by U.S.-China rivalry. Countries may be hesitant to engage with the BDN due to fears of straining their economic ties with China, which remains a significant economic partner for many nations (Barr, 2024).

3.3 Comparative Analysis of QUAD & AUKUS Alliance

While both AUKUS and QUAD alliance focus on promoting security and stability in the Indo-Pacific region, they have different objectives and approaches. The major difference between both alliances is that QUAD is a diplomatic alliance between the US, Japan, India and Australia and addresses wide range of diplomatic and global issues while AUKUS is a narrow military alliance between Australia, the UK and the US and it focuses on enhancing the security and military capabilities. The AUKUS mainly focuses on the military development as it is clear from their first project, where the UK and the US will help Australia to acquire nuclear powered submarines while QUAD focuses on multilateral issues I-e climate change, infrastructure, economic discussions and security affairs. The AUKUS trilateral pact is made to protect the region

from China's assertiveness while QUAD has an agenda to focus on the shared interests of its member states (Tandon, 2021).

Despite the differences between both alliances, the QUAD and UKUS alliance complement each other. The Quad provides a broad platform for regional cooperation, while AUKUS offers a focused mechanism for advancing specific defense and technological capabilities.

3.4 Implications for China

Although the US, and other partners of Quad and AUKUS have mentioned that these agreements are formed to enhance the security and stability in the Indo-Pacific region. And to promote collective security and cooperation and work for free Indo-Pacific region. But these alliances have serious implications for China's military modernization efforts and its economic influence in the region.

3.4.1 Economic Implications

China's economic rise has increased its influence in the region, but it has also raised concerns for the neighbor countries. China's Belt and Road Initiative focuses on enhancing the connectivity and building infrastructure and broadening trade links between Asia, Africa, and Europe. This initiative attracts other countries to join in, that has raised concerns among US and the QUAD members. They view BRI as a strategy to squeeze the influence of US, Japan and other countries in the region. In response to China's expanding economic influence, the QUAD countries have coordinated efforts to provide alternatives to the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) by forming infrastructure partnerships. They have also created technology and supply chain alliances to compete with China's technological advancements. Both the AUKUS and QUAD alliances

advocate for diversifying supply chains away from China to lessen countries' dependence on it. These activities of AUKUS and QUAD have significant economic implications for China (Wei, 2022).

The formation of these two alliances plays a role in shifting of investment and trade dynamics, as countries may focus on strengthen economic ties with the QUAD and AUKUS countries over China. The QUADs initiative Blue Dot Network provides an alternative to China's Belt and Road Initiative. This infrastructure project offers development financing choices for the countries in the region. It can affect China's economic growth and its ability to leverage economic tools for geopolitical influence (Yatharth Kachiar, 2021).

3.4.2 Military Implications

The military implications of AUKUS and Quad for China are significant. The trilateral AUKUS security pact including the US, the UK, and Australia is a step of US strategy to counter China's growing influence in the Indo-Pacific region. As the pact focuses on helping Australia to acquire nuclear powered submarines and enhances the deterrence capabilities of its member states. It poses a threat to China's military modernization efforts in the region. Similarly, the QUAD alliance also focuses on strengthening the military capabilities and strategic coordination through the regular joint exercises, I.e. Malabar naval exercises that seek to deepen interoperability between the QUAD partners. These military efforts of AUKUS and QUAD members will affect China and it will prompt China to accelerate its military modernization efforts that could lead to an arms race in the region (MP, 2023).

3.4.3 Political Implications

The political implications of the AUKUS and Quad alliances for China are significant. The two alliances play a significant role in reshaping the geopolitical dynamics of the Indo-Pacific region. AUKUS focuses on deepening of security and political ties between its member states and also signals a strong stance against China's growing assertiveness in the Indo-Pacific region. The acquisition of nuclear-powered submarines not only strengthens the military deterrence of its partners but also enforces a political message that these allies commit to maintain a free and open Indo-Pacific region to counter China's maritime claims and its regional ambitions (Curran, 2021).

The Quad has evolved from a loose consultative group into a more cohesive and action-oriented partnership, addressing a wide range of regional issues from security to infrastructure development. This coalition's dedication to upholding a rules-based international order, ensuring maritime security, and safeguarding freedom of navigation directly opposes China's unilateral actions, such as its military buildup in the South China Sea. The Quad's focus on promoting democratic values and countering coercive economic practices further isolates China politically, as it brings together major regional democracies in a united front (Shrikhande, 2022).

Politically, these alliances signify a shift towards a more robust and coordinated approach among democracies to uphold a rules-based international order. This is seen as a direct response to China's efforts to reshape regional norms and assert its dominance through economic coercion and military assertiveness. The collective stance of AUKUS and the Quad also sends a strong message to other regional actors about the importance of aligning with democratic principles and international law, potentially isolating China diplomatically. Overall, the political ramifications of AUKUS and the Quad underscore a growing alignment of interests among key Indo-Pacific democracies, aimed at countering China's influence and ensuring regional stability. This

realignment is likely to shape the strategic landscape of the region for years to come, with significant implications for China's foreign policy and regional ambitions.

3.5 Implications for Regional Stability in the Indo-Pacific

The AUKUS and Quad alliance are significant strategic alliances in the Indo-pacific region. While they aim to enhance the security and stability, they do have serious implications for regional stability in the Indo-Pacific, including security dilemma, escalating military tensions, complicating the diplomatic relations and impacting the regional alliances and the partnerships.

3.5.1 Regional Unrest

The US is actively engaging in the Asia-Pacific region, intensifying a political and military competition that could lead to heightened risks of conflict. This involves urging its allies to enhance their offensive military capabilities under the pretext of portraying China as a significant regional threat. The US characterizes Beijing's economic and military policies as assertive and aggressive, thereby escalating rivalry and increasing the potential for conflict in the area. However, this focus on military modernization overlooks China's undeniable economic influence, which holds global significance and cannot be ignored in regional dynamic (Ian Storey, 2023).

3.5.2 Maritime Disputes

These trilateral and quadrilateral agreements mark the beginning of a new phase of maritime tensions, potentially leading to naval conflicts. As the strategic dynamics in the region evolve, the focus of disputes is shifting from land territories to the open seas, with an increased military presence and joint exercises around the South China Sea. The United States, Australia, and India have ramped up their naval exercises, with a focus on enhancing their undersea

surveillance capabilities. Concurrently, China and Russia have also bolstered their joint military activities in the region, apparently for similar purposes. This heightened military posturing, and the stated objectives of these exercises are likely to provoke a strong reaction from China, further exacerbating tensions and raising the risk of a major conflict at sea. The combination of these factors threatens to transform the once open and free waters of the Indo-Pacific into a potential war zone. The delicate balance of power in the region is being tested, and the failure to manage these escalating maritime disputes could have far-reaching consequences for regional stability and global trade (Hananah Zarrar, 2022).

3.5.3 Impact on Existing Alliances and Partnerships

The focus on AUKUS and Quad will overshadow the existing regional frameworks I.e. ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and the East Asia Summit (EAS). These multilateral frameworks emphasize collective security that includes territorial disputes and aims to build strong bilateral relations and build trust through cooperative engagement. The AUKUS agreement involves transferring of military capabilities and focusing on countering China's influence, this can overshadow the cooperative nature of ARF and EAS. Similarly, the activities of Quad, including the joint military exercises and strategic dialogues centered around countering regional threats, might detract from the comprehensive security approach advocated by the ARF and EAS. This shift in focus can undermine the effectiveness of these multilateral platforms, as member states might prioritize bilateral and trilateral alliances over broader, inclusive dialogues.

Countries that are not a part of AUKUS or Quad will feel excluded from the significant strategic discussions and decisions that impact regional security. This sense of exclusion can lead to diplomatic isolation, where these nations might struggle to have their voices heard in critical

security dialogues. The pressure to align with one of the strategic blocs can undermine regional solidarity, as countries might prioritize alliance commitments over regional unity. When countries are diplomatically isolated or pressured to choose sides, the coordination needed for collective action and security becomes difficult. This can lead to ineffective responses to transnational threats, reducing the overall security and stability of the region (Hananah Zarrar, 2022).

3.5.4 Exacerbation of Arms Race & Security Dilemma

The formations of AUKUS and Quad alliance can trigger an arms race in the region. An arms race refers to the competitive accumulation of military capabilities between two or more nations. In the context of AUKUS and QUAD, countries outside these alliances or those that view them as threats may respond by enhancing their own military capacities through the acquisition and development of new missiles. For instance, Japan plans to extend the range of its truck-mounted Type 12 anti-ship missile from its current 200 kilometers to 900 kilometers, and eventually to 1500 kilometers. The Type 12 is versatile, capable of targeting both naval ships and ground targets. Countries in the region such as China, North Korea and even states like Malaysia and Indonesia will feel the pressure to increase their military capabilities and will focus on investing in advanced weaponry and missiles. As some countries acquire them, security concerns of other countries will increase, and it will trigger a nuclear arms race in the region and a security dilemma will occur. Therefore, the security and stability of Indo-Pacific is at risk and in danger (Oktay, 2021).

3.5.5 Undermining Nuclear Non-Proliferation Regime

AUKUS partnership's provision for Australia to acquire nuclear submarines is damaging the nuclear non-proliferation agenda. Under this alliance, Australia is the first ever non-nuclear

weapon state to receive Highly Enriched Uranium (HEU) for developing the nuclear-powered submarines. According to the article of NPT, the nuclear states are prohibited to transfer nuclear weapons or to assist the non-nuclear states to acquire nuclear weapons. The AUKUS alliance has weakened this non-transference obligation under the article of NPT. This might also motivate other non-nuclear states to acquire nuclear weapons. One option to cater for the rising proliferation concerns is that the US and UK ensure that the Australian nuclear-powered submarines be fueled by low enriched uranium (LEU) instead of HEU, which cannot be used directly as weapon grade material (Hananah Zarrar, 2022).

3.6 Implications for Pakistan

The Quad and AUKUS are strategic alliances formed to counter China's growing influence. These alliances have significant implications for Pakistan as it is a key player in the region and has historical relations with China.

3.6.1 Enhanced Security Challenges

The Quad and AUKUS alliance will increase security challenges for Pakistan and can put a direct threat to Pakistan. The Quad alliance would allow India to enhance its naval capabilities. India aims for a Blue Water Navy that would be able to implement a naval blockade which will affect Pakistan's economy. The AUKUS agreement on nuclear submarines will likely lead to a more aggressive posture from India, which could further destabilize the region. These alliances will likely embolden India to pursue its hegemonic designs in the region. Pakistan will need to counter these designs through diplomatic and military means, which could lead to increased tensions and security challenges (Ali, 2023).

3.6.2 Pakistan-US Relations

The two alliances might further deteriorate the Pakistan-US relations particularly due to enhanced security cooperation between India and US. The US shift towards a confrontational stance against China will lead to increased tensions with Pakistan as it has maintained good historical relations with China. These increased tensions can affect Pakistan's economic and strategic interests. Pakistan will need to maintain its strategic autonomy, this could involve strengthening ties with other regional players such as China, while also engaging with the US and other Quad members on a bilateral basis (Ali, 2023).

3.6.3 Strategic Dilemma

Pakistan might face a strategic dilemma due to US-China confrontation in the Indo-Pacific region as it would affect the regional stability and security. There will be a cold war like situation, Pakistan will also suffer as it has close economic and defense ties with China. Therefore, taking actions against China will directly impact Pakistan's economy, putting pressure on its relations with China. Pakistan may face economic sanctions from the US and be denied stimulus packages from global donor institutions due to its alignment with China (Basshir, 2021).

The Quad and AUKUS will likely have significant implications for Pakistan, including enhanced security challenges, altered regional power dynamics, strained Pak-US relations, and increased economic competition. Pakistan will need to navigate these challenges while maintaining its strategic autonomy and working towards regional stability.

3.7 Implications for Russia

As Russia is an ally of China, the Quad (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue) and AUKUS alliances have significant implications for strategic position of Russia in the Indo-Pacific region.

3.7.1 Geopolitical Implications

The Quad and AUKUS are seen as part of the United States' efforts to counter China's growing influence in the Indo-Pacific. This indirectly challenges Russia's own interests in the region, as Russia has been looking to strengthen its relations with China as a counterweight to Western influence. The strengthening of security cooperation between the US, its allies, and India (a traditional partner of Russia) could potentially limit Russia's ability to maneuver in the region and maintain its influence (Russian News Agency, 2024).

3.7.2 Military and Security Implications

The AUKUS agreement, which includes the acquisition of nuclear-powered submarine technology to Australia, is viewed by Russia as a potential threat to regional stability and the global non-proliferation regime. The enhanced military cooperation and interoperability between the US, UK, and Australia under AUKUS could potentially limit Russia's ability to project power and influence in the Indo-Pacific (Hananah Zarrar, 2022).

3.7.3 Economic Implications

The formation of AUKUS and the strengthening of the Quad have not directly impacted Russia's trade with Indo-Pacific countries. However, the geopolitical implications of these agreements may indirectly influence economic relations in the region. The Quad's focus on areas like critical and emerging technologies, supply chain resilience, and infrastructure development could potentially challenge Russia's economic interests in the region. The strengthening of

economic ties between the Quad countries and other regional partners may prompt some countries in the region to be more cautious in their economic relations with Russia, fearing secondary sanctions or political pressure from the West. This can reduce Russia's economic influence and access to markets in the Indo-Pacific (Hananah Zarrar, 2022).

3.7.4 Diplomatic Implications

Russia has expressed concerns about the Quad and AUKUS, viewing them as part of a broader US-led effort to contain China and, by extension, limit Russia's own influence in the region. Russia may seek to strengthen its diplomatic ties with China and other countries in the region, such as India and Pakistan, to counterbalance the influence of the Quad and AUKUS

In a statement signed jointly by Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping, Moscow and Beijing have expressed "serious concern about the implications for strategic stability in the Asia-Pacific Region of the implementation of the AUKUS project in all its aspects". This highlights the shared concerns of Russia and China regarding the potential impact of AUKUS on regional security and stability. Overall, the Quad and AUKUS alliances are seen by Russia as part of a broader geopolitical and strategic challenge to its interests in the Indo-Pacific. Russia is likely to respond by seeking to enhance its partnership with China, while also exploring opportunities to engage with other regional players to maintain its influence and counter the perceived threat posed by these Western-led initiatives (Russian News Agency, 2024).

CHAPTER FOUR

CHINA'S RESPONSE TO THE FORMATION OF NEW ALLIANCES

4.1 Analysis of China's Strategic Objectives

China's strategic objectives in the Indo-Pacific region are multifaceted and far-reaching, driven by a desire to reclaim its perceived rightful place on the global stage. It mainly aims to achieve territorial integrity and national reunification. China seeks to wedge and wean away Washington from its Asian allies, undermining the strength of US alliances and partnerships in the region. This involves using economic coercion, diplomatic pressure, and military intimidation to weaken the resolve of countries like Japan, South Korea, and Australia, and to prevent them from participating in any potential US-led coalition against China. China has made significant inroads on trade and diplomacy across the Indo-Pacific with the small states in periphery (Limaye, 2020).

China is strongly focused on the reunification of Taiwan, which it sees as a province that has separated and must eventually be brought back under mainland control. China has explicitly stated its willingness to use force if necessary to achieve this reunification goal and has intensified both military maneuvers and diplomatic pressure on Taiwan as part of this strategy. Additionally, it seeks to expand its territorial control in the South China Sea and East China Sea, where it has overlapping claims with neighboring countries. China has built artificial islands and established military bases in these areas and has used military force to assert some of its claims and to assert its dominance (Limaye, 2020).

China seeks to use economic coercion and restrictions against the countries that offend its sensibilities, particularly those that recognize Taiwan's sovereignty or criticize China's human

rights record. China has used economic sanctions, diplomatic isolation, and propaganda campaigns against countries like Lithuania, which has established diplomatic relations with Taiwan, and Australia.

China aims to counter intervention capabilities and deter US involvement in regional conflicts. China has developed advanced military capabilities, including anti-ship missiles, hypersonic weapons, and cyber warfare capabilities, designed to prevent the US from intervening in conflicts in the region. China has also established a network of military bases and logistics facilities in countries like Cambodia, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka, which could be used to support military operations in the region. It also seeks to limit US alliances in the region, particularly the US-Japanese alliance, which it views as a threat to its security. China has used diplomatic and economic pressure to try to drive a wedge between the US and Japan and has sought to establish its own rival alliances and partnerships in the region (Johnstone, 2024).

China seeks to advance its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and increase its economic influence in the region. The BRI is a large-scale infrastructure and investment project designed to link China with various regions across Asia, Europe, and Africa, and to establish China as a global economic leader. China has used the BRI to exert economic pressure on countries in the region, and to reward those that support its goals (McBride, Berman, & Chatzky, 2023).

China seeks to establish itself as a regional hegemon and challenge US dominance in the Indo-Pacific. China has sought to establish its own regional institutions and norms, and to promote its own vision of a "Community of Common Destiny" in the region. China's leaders believe that the country's growing economic and military power entitles it to a greater say in regional affairs, and that the US is seeking to contain China's rise through its alliances and partnerships in the region.

Finally, China seeks to protect its territorial claims in the South China Sea and East China Sea, and to prevent Taiwan's independence and achieve reunification. China has used military coercion and intimidation to assert its claims in these areas and has threatened to use force to achieve its goals. China's leaders believe that the country's territorial integrity and sovereignty are non-negotiable, and that any challenge to its claims is a threat to its national security and stability (Li & Jiang, 2023).

Overall, China's strategic objectives in the Indo-Pacific region are driven by a desire to reclaim its perceived rightful place on the global stage, and to establish itself as a regional hegemon and global leader. China's goals are likely to lead to increased competition and tension with the US and its allies in the region and could potentially lead to conflict if China's ambitions are not met.

4.2 Analyzing China's Response to the Formation of AUKUS and QUAD

China has been outspoken on its views for any such alliances and views them as a threat to its own ambitions in the region. China's response to the formation of AUKUS and QUAD is expected to be multidimensional including diplomatic measure, military buildup and economic strategies to maintain its influence in the Indo-pacific region and to counter these alliances.

4.2.1 Diplomatic Measures

China is likely to intensify its efforts to frame AUKUS and Quad as a threat for the security and stability in the region and for the nuclear non-proliferation treaty. This strategy involves using the state media and the diplomatic channels to present these alliances as a destabilizing force to contain China. This narrative will be pushed in the international forum like the United Nations.

China will argue that the AUKUS deal will lead to the spread of nuclear technology (Grossman, 2023).

In response to these alliances China may strengthen its bilateral ties with countries like Russia, Pakistan, North Korea and certain ASEAN members that share its concerns about these alliances. This will involve increased military cooperation, joint exercises and diplomatic support to solidify these partnerships. China and Russia might increase their joint military exercise, the China-Russia “Comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination for a new era” is an example of this strategy (Gering, 2021).

China might also engage to intensify its diplomatic efforts in the Indo-Pacific region particularly focusing on the ASEAN countries. It will strengthen its influence within ASEAN by offering development aid and infrastructure investments under BRI and will encourage these countries to support China’s policies. China may emphasize its economic ties and shared regional interests to persuade these countries that closer alignment with Western-led alliances could jeopardize their economic growth and regional stability (Mazarr, Fredrick, & Crane, 2022).

China will continue to play an active role in multilateral organizations such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). By promoting alternative security and economic frameworks within such organizations, China aims to counterbalance US-led initiatives and build a network of states that support its vision of a multipolar world order. Additionally, China is expected to support the principles outlined in the United Nations Charter, particularly emphasizing the importance of non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries and respect for sovereignty to contrast with what it views as the interventionist policies of AUKUS and the Quad.

4.2.2 Military Buildup

In response to AUKUS and Quad alliance China is likely to accelerate its military modernization efforts, with a particular focus on submarine warfare to counter the Australia's future nuclear-powered submarines. This may include the development of more advanced nuclear-powered submarines, anti-submarine warfare capabilities, and underwater detection systems. China may propose an anti-AUKUS military alliance with Russia (Yatharth Kachiar, 2021).

China will also intensify its military presence in the areas like South China Sea and around Taiwan. This will involve frequent military exercises, increased air and naval patrols and the deployment of advanced weaponry, such as hypersonic missiles and stealth aircraft. The main objective will be to demonstrate China's capability to deter the military inventions and to defend its territorial claims (Hawkins, 'Path of error and danger': China angry and confused over Aukus deal, 2023).

China is likely to accelerate its efforts in developing cutting-edge military technologies. This includes areas such as hypersonic missiles, artificial intelligence for military applications, quantum computing for cryptography and sensing, and advanced space capabilities. The goal would be to maintain a technological edge and potentially leapfrog Western military capabilities in certain areas.

China will focus to strengthen its military ties with countries such as Russia, including increase of joint military exercises, sharing technology, coordination in strategic planning and intelligence sharing agreements. This cooperation will serve as a counterweight to Western alliances and complicate the strategic calculus for AUKUS and the Quad (LÁZARO, 2024).

4.2.3 Economic Strategies

The Belt and Road Initiative is a central component of China's economic strategy to counterbalance AUKUS and Quad. By investing in infrastructure projects, providing development loans, and enhancing trade ties with countries across Asia, Africa, and Europe, China aims to strengthen its economic influence and create a network of dependencies that can act as a counterweight to US-led alliances. BRI projects also serve to secure critical supply chains and energy routes, enhancing China's strategic resilience (McBride, Berman, & Chatzky, 2023).

China might use economic coercion against the countries that support AUKUS and Quad alliance. This will involve trade restrictions, economic sanctions, investment limitations and restrictions on the access to the Chinese market while the countries that adopt a supportive stance towards China might receive economic aid and investments from China. The recent trade disputes with Australia serve as an example of how China might use its economic leverage (McGregor, 2022).

China will likely intensify efforts to achieve technological self-reliance and leadership in critical technologies such as artificial intelligence, quantum computing, and 5G networks. By reducing its dependence on foreign technology and developing indigenous capabilities, China aims to insulate itself from potential economic sanctions and maintain its competitive edge. This strategy also includes promoting Chinese technology standards globally and establishing China as a leader in emerging technologies. This "dual circulation" strategy aims to make China less reliant on technology restrictions or sanctions that could come from Western countries, thereby reducing its vulnerability.

China may intensify its efforts to develop alternative financial systems and promote the internationalization of the renminbi. This could include expanding the use of the Cross-Border Interbank Payment System (CIPS) as an alternative to SWIFT and promoting the use of the renminbi in international trade and investment. The goal would be to reduce China's vulnerability to Western financial pressures and sanctions (Mooradian, 2024).

To mitigate the impact of potential economic decoupling from the United States and its allies, China will seek to diversify its trade and investment partners. This involves strengthening economic ties with developing countries, enhancing cooperation with regional economic blocs such as the Eurasian Economic Union, and exploring new markets in Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East. Diversification helps to reduce economic vulnerabilities and expand China's global economic influence (Manca, 2023).

These multi-faceted strategies reflect China's comprehensive approach to addressing the perceived challenges posed by AUKUS and the Quad. By employing diplomatic, military, and economic measures, China aims to protect its interests and maintain its influence in the Indo-Pacific region, while avoiding direct military confrontation and focusing instead on long-term strategic competition across various domains. It is crucial to consider that the effectiveness of these strategies will hinge on various factors, including the cohesion and resolve of AUKUS and the Quad, the responses of other regional players, and the overall geopolitical dynamics in the Indo-Pacific. Additionally, China's actions may also be shaped by domestic considerations, such as the need to maintain economic growth and social stability.

4.3 Analyzing Russia's Response to the formation of AUKUS and QUAD

Russia has expressed strong opposition to AUKUS. Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov argued that AUKUS is "a great challenge to the international nuclear non-proliferation regime" (Aljazeera, 2021). In a joint statement with Chinese President Xi Jinping, Russia expressed serious concerns regarding the implications of AUKUS for strategic stability in the Asia-Pacific region. This includes apprehensions about nuclear proliferation and the potential for a new arms race, as AUKUS aims to provide Australia with nuclear-powered submarines and develop advanced military capabilities (TASS, 2024).

Russian officials, including Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu, have labeled AUKUS and the Quad as attempts to contain China and disrupt the formation of a multipolar world. Shoigu emphasized that these alliances are integrating into a NATO-like structure, which he views as a provocative strategy aimed at instigating military confrontation with both Russia and China (Pandit, 2023).

In response to AUKUS, Russia is likely to strengthen its ties with regional organizations and countries that oppose US-led blocs. This includes reaffirming its commitment to ASEAN and enhancing cooperation with BRICS nations. Russia aims to promote a multipolar world order, advocating for trade-based organizations over military alliances. Russian officials have explicitly criticized AUKUS and the Quad, framing them as instruments of US hegemony designed to provoke conflict with both Russia and China (Yanovsky, 2023).

The formation of AUKUS and Quad alliance has led to enhanced relations and closer alignment between Russia and China. Both nations view these agreements as a as threats to their security and influence, which has prompted them to enhance their cooperation in various domains,

including military and economic sectors. Analysts suggest that the shared concerns over US-led initiatives are driving Russia and China closer together, as they seek to counterbalance the influence of these alliances in the Asia-Pacific region. China and Russia might find themselves more dependent on each other for economic and strategic support. This could lead to more extensive bilateral agreements in areas like energy, technology, and military cooperation (Yanovsky, 2023).

The China-Russia “Comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination for a new era” is an example deepening and broadening of bilateral relations between China and Russia, particularly in response to the increasing challenges and pressure from the Western countries. The partnership emphasizes strong political mutual trust, with both nations supporting each other on core issues, such as sovereignty and territorial integrity. It aims to enhance economic ties of both countries, focusing on energy, trade, and investment. Both countries have committed to boosting cooperation in traditional sectors while exploring new areas such as digital economy and innovation. This economic cooperation is seen as a counterbalance to economic pressures. China and Russia advocate for a multipolar world and oppose the hegemonic practices by Western nations. They seek to coordinate their positions in international organizations like the UN and BRICS. Lastly, the partnership also emphasizes cultural exchanges and building understanding among their peoples, which is an important factor for long-term cooperation and stability between both nations (PR Newswire, 2023).

4.4 Analyzing the Response of ASEAN Countries to the formation of AUKUS and Quad

ASEAN countries have raised concerns about the AUKUS alliance. Malaysia and Indonesia have raised concerns about the geopolitical instability it might cause as the alliance

involves the acquisition of nuclear submarines and they have expressed concern that this agreement could lead to an increase in the nuclear arms race in the region. Singapore has also raised concerns though less strongly, as it is a close ally of Australia. On the other hand, Vietnam and Philippines support the alliance and believe that it would help in ensuring the strategic balance in the region. This situation will lead to disunity within ASEAN and would urge the ASEAN states to take sides with US or China while weakening its effectiveness. Another concern is the uncertainty about how Australia will use its military power maximization in dealing with the ASEAN (Ian Storey, 2023).

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION

The geostrategic landscape of the Indo-Pacific has undergone significant transformation primarily driven by the rise of China as a global and economic power. The emergence of AUKUS and Quad alliance also represent a significant role in reshaping the geostrategic landscape in a way that challenge China's growing influence and assertiveness. AUKUS, a trilateral pact between Australia, the UK and the US, aims to help Australia in developing nuclear powered submarines and to enhance the defense capabilities of these states. This development marks a significant shift in regional military dynamics, introducing advanced military technology that could potentially trigger an arms race. Similarly, the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD), involving the United States, India, Japan, and Australia, seeks to promote a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific region. The QUAD's emphasis on maritime security, democratic values, and economic cooperation underscores its strategic objective to counter China's assertiveness in sea lanes and regional affairs. These alliances pose multifaceted challenges across military, economic, and diplomatic spheres. Militarily, the enhanced capabilities of alliance members, particularly Australia's acquisition of nuclear-powered submarines through AUKUS, present a direct challenge to China's naval dominance in the region. This development is likely to accelerate China's own military modernization efforts, potentially triggering an arms race. Economically, the alliances aim to reduce regional dependence on China by offering alternative infrastructure and development initiatives. The Quad's Blue Dot Network and other economic cooperation measures among alliance members could diminish China's economic leverage, particularly in relation to its Belt and Road Initiative. This economic rebalancing may compel China to reassess its economic strategies and seek new avenues for maintaining its influence. Diplomatically, AUKUS and the Quad have

reshaped regional dynamics, potentially isolating China and forcing smaller nations to choose sides. This polarization risks undermining existing multilateral forums and complicating regional cooperation on shared challenges. China may respond by intensifying its own diplomatic efforts, both to counter the narrative of these alliances and to strengthen ties with non-aligned nations. The security dilemma created by these alliances is a critical concern. China perceives these alliances as direct threat to its strategic interests and regional aspirations as AUKUS and Quad members enhance their military capabilities and strategic cooperation. Beijing's efforts to counter these alliances include bolstering its military capabilities, deepening economic ties with neighboring countries through initiatives like the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), and seeking to exploit divisions within the alliances. This will lead to further military buildup and increased tensions. This cycle of arms race could destabilize the region and increase the risk of conflict. These alliances also have broader implications for the regional security and stability of the Indo-Pacific region. Countries in the Asia-Pacific region might feel compelled to enhance their military capabilities, resulting in a regional arms race that could undermine long-term stability and peace. The future stability of the Indo-Pacific will depend on how these alliances evolve, how China responds, and how the broader international community engages with these shifting dynamics. Ultimately, finding a path towards peaceful coexistence and mutual prosperity in this strategically vital region should be the paramount goal for all stakeholders involved.

KEY FINDINGS

1. Technological race acceleration: The AUKUS submarine deal, which involves the US and UK helping Australia acquire nuclear-powered submarines, has spurred China to accelerate its own naval technology development. This is particularly focused on nuclear propulsion

and underwater detection technologies. The thesis suggests this is likely to initiate a new phase of military technological competition in the Indo-Pacific region.

2. **Shifting regional dynamics:** Smaller nations in Southeast Asia are finding themselves in an increasingly difficult position. They are trying to maintain beneficial economic ties with China while simultaneously seeking security assurances from AUKUS and Quad members. This balancing act is creating new patterns of diplomatic engagement in the region, as these nations try to navigate between major powers.
3. **Nuclear non-proliferation concerns:** The AUKUS deal's provision of nuclear submarine technology to Australia has raised significant questions about the interpretation of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. This could potentially set a precedent for other countries to pursue similar arrangements, which could have far-reaching implications for global nuclear non-proliferation efforts.
4. **Economic decoupling acceleration:** The formation of these alliances is likely to speed up economic decoupling efforts between China and Western-aligned nations. This is particularly expected in critical technology sectors, as countries seek to reduce dependencies and vulnerabilities in strategic industries.
5. **The AUKUS agreement's provision of high-grade uranium to Australia** could potentially lead to the country becoming a nuclear power state, sparking another round of nuclear proliferation. This development could alter the balance of power in the Pacific, where Australia's economic strength and strategic location could allow it to emerge as a significant player. While the United States may have intended to maintain a balance of power through this agreement, it may still face challenges in the future as Australia's nuclear capabilities and regional influence grow.

RECOMMENDATIONS

China should recalibrate its approach to regional engagement, emphasizing cooperation and mutual benefit rather than competition and coercion. It should intensify its diplomatic efforts to counter the narrative of these alliances and strengthen ties with non-aligned nations in the region. All parties involved should engage in open dialogue and seek diplomatic solutions to prevent escalation and maintain peace in the Indo-Pacific region. China should accelerate its efforts to develop indigenous technologies and reduce its vulnerability to potential technology restrictions or sanctions from Western countries. Additionally, China may consider intensifying its efforts to develop alternative financial systems and promote the internationalization of the renminbi to reduce dependence on Western-dominated financial structures. Regional countries should carefully balance their economic interests, security concerns, and diplomatic relationships to maintain stability and avoid being caught in great power competition. International institutions and forums should be strengthened to provide platforms for dialogue and conflict resolution among all stakeholders in the Indo-Pacific. China should continue to focus on its economic development and modernization efforts while seeking ways to reassure neighboring countries about its intentions. All parties should work towards establishing a cooperative regional order based on shared interests and mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity. Efforts should be made to prevent the escalation of military tensions and avoid an arms race in the region, possibly through confidence-building measures and transparency initiatives. These recommendations aim to address the complex challenges posed by the formation of AUKUS and the Quad, promoting regional stability and peaceful coexistence.

REFERENCES

- Ahmad, Z. (2021). Great Power Rivalry in Indo Pacific: Implications for Pakistan. *Strategic Studies*, 41(4), 56-75.
- Akdag, Z. (2023). China's Assertive Foreign Policy and Global Visions Under Xi Jinping. *Journal of Academic Inquiries*, 19(1), 204-221.
- Akimoto, D. (2022, November 29). Japan, Quad 3.0, and the Thucydides Trap in the Indo-Pacific. *The Diplomat*.
- Ali, M. (2023). How AUKUS and Quad Challenge the Security Architecture of the Indian Ocean Region: Options for Pakistan. *Center for International Strategic Studies*.
- Aljazeera. (2021, October 1). Aljazeera. From Aljazeera:
<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/10/1/russia-says-aukus-pact-threatens-nuclear-non-proliferation-regime>
- Aukus: UK, US and Australia launch pact to counter China. (2021, September 16). Retrieved September 29, 2023 from BBC: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-58564837>
- Australian Submarine Agency. (n.d.). From Australian Submarine Agency:
<https://www.asa.gov.au/aukus/australias-nuclear-powered-submarines>
- Awan, S. H. (2023). South China Sea: The Chinese Approach. *Margalla Papers*, 44-59.
- Barr, S. (2024, January 11). Wilson Center. From Wilson Center:
<https://www.wilsoncenter.org/article/west-still-lacks-adequate-response-bri>
- Basshir, R. (2021, December 22). STRAFASIA. From STRAFASIA:
<https://strafasia.com/quadrilateral-security-dialoguechallenges-and-prospects-for-pakistan/>
- Chen, D. L.-c. (2022). Let Taiwan and the Quad Fight Side by Side: How Can the Quad Incorporate Taiwan into Its Military Deterrence against China? *Journal of Indo-Pacific Affairs*, 1-11.
- Cheng, M. (2022, February 03). AUKUS: The Changing Dynamic and Its Regional Implications. *European Journal of Development Studies*, 2(1). From <https://ej-develop.org/index.php/ejdevelop/article/view/63/24>
- Cheung, R. (2022, September 22). The AUKUS Deal's Implications for China. *World Politics Review*. From <https://www.worldpoliticsreview.com/the-aukus-deal-s-implications-for-china/>
- Cuong, T. P., Tai, V. P., & Tien, N. H. (2023, January 07). *The role of the AUKUS alliance in counterbalancing China*. Retrieved September 30, 2023 from ResearchGate:

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/366946361_The_role_of_the_AUKUS_alliance_in_counterbalancing_China

- Curran, J. (2021, September 20). *Council on Foreign Relations*. From Council on Foreign Relations: <https://www.cfr.org/blog/could-aukus-deal-strengthen-deterrence-against-china-and-yet-come-real-cost-australia>
- Deb, S., & Wilson, N. (2021). The Coming of Quad and the Balance of Power in the Indo-Pacific. *Journal of Indo-Pacific Affairs*, 111-121.
- Dreyer, J. T. (2007). Chinese Foreign Policy. *Foreign Policy Research Institute*.
- Fariani, M., & Sholeh, B. (2020, November 4). China's Military Increase: A Security Dilemma In Asia Pacific. *Mandala Journal*, 3(2), 120-133.
doi:<https://doi.org/10.33822/mjihi.v3i2.2151>
- Forum IAS*. (2022, May 26). From Forum IAS: <https://forumias.com/blog/answered-what-are-the-objectives-of-quad-group-how-far-are-the-claims-of-it-becoming-an-asian-nato-true/>
- Gardner, F. (2023, March 14). *Aukus submarine deal: Is conflict with China getting closer?* Retrieved September 30, 2023 from BBC: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-64959500>
- Gering, T. (2021, November 29). *The China Project*. From The China Project: <https://thechinaproject.com/2021/11/29/why-china-is-genuinely-worried-about-aukus/>
- Gluck, C. (2005). *Asia for Educators*. From Asia for Educators: https://afe.easia.columbia.edu/ps/japan/bilateral_treaty.pdf
- Grieco, K., & Kavanagh, J. (2024, March 23). *East Asia Forum*. From East Asia Forum: <https://eastasiaforum.org/2024/03/23/bridging-the-security-economic-divide-in-asia/>
- Grossman, D. (2023, April 15). *RAND*. From RAND: <https://www.rand.org/pubs/commentary/2023/04/why-china-should-worry-about-asias-reaction-to-aukus.html>
- Hamza, A. (2023, March 04). *QUAD, AUKUS, and China's possible response*. From Global Village Space: <https://www.globalvillagespace.com/quad-aukus-and-chinas-possible-response>
- Hananah Zarrar, A. A. (2022). QUAD TO AUKUS: IMPLICATIONS FOR THE REGION AND BEYOND. *Strategic Thought*, 119-135.
- Hanggarinia, P., Madjid, M. A., Perwita, A. A., & Wiranto, S. (2023, August). *Researchgate*. doi:10.31893/multirev.2023027

- Hawkins, A. (2023, March 16). 'Path of error and danger': China angry and confused over Aukus deal. *The Guardian*.
- Hawkins, A., & Blinken, A. (2023, March 14). China says Aukus submarines deal embarks on 'path of error and danger'. *The Guardian*. From <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/mar/14/china-aukus-submarines-deal-embarks-path-error-danger>
- Herz, J. H. (1950). Idealist internationalism and the security dilemma. *World Politics*, 2(2), 157-180. <https://doi.org/10.2307/2009187>
- Hines, P. (2020, October 20). *American Security Project*. From American Security Project: <https://www.americansecurityproject.org/possible-results-of-the-quadrilateral-security-dialogue/>
- Hussain, H. R. (2022). *AUKUS- Futuristic Military Unfolding in Indo-Pacific Region: Implications on Regional and Extra Regional Security Conclusions and Implications for Pakistan*. Islamabad: Islamabad Policy Research Institute.
- Ian Storey, W. C. (2023). The AUKUS Announcement and Southeast Asia: An Assessment of Regional Responses and Concerns. *ISEAS Perspective* , 1-12.
- Johnstone, C. B. (2024, March 21). *Center for Strategic and International Studies*. From Center for Strategic and International Studies: <https://www.csis.org/analysis/chinas-evolving-counter-intervention-capabilities-and-implications-united-states-and-indo>
- Julian Borger, D. S. (2021, September 16). US, UK and Australia forge military alliance to counter China. *The Guardian*.
- Kainikara, S. (2012). *Air Power Development Center*. From Air Power Development Center: <https://airpower.airforce.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-03/WP34-The-Security-Environment-in-the-Asia-Pacific.pdf>
- Khan, H. (2006). A Historical View of China's Foreign Policy Towards Big Powers. *Strategic Studies*, 73-99 .
- Khan, S. A. (2022). The AUKUS Alliance and its Implications on the Non-Proliferation Treaty. *BTTN Journal*, 01(02), 83-94. From https://bttan.org.pk/ojs/index.php/BTTN_Journal/article/view/26
- Kiran, S. (2023, June 04). *Modern Diplomacy*. From Modern Diplomacy: <https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2023/06/04/rising-powers-in-the-asia-pacific-implications-for-global-stability/>
- LÁZARO, G. A. (2024, March 5). *Ankasam*. From Ankasam: <https://www.ankasam.org/china-and-russia-strengthen-military-cooperation-to-new-heights/?lang=en>

- Li, L., & Jiang, T. (2023). From Conceptual Idea to Strategic Reality: 'Indo-Pacific Strategy' from the Perspective of Chinese Scholars. *Asian Perspective*, 47(1), 101-119.
- Limaye, S. (2020, June 24). *East-West Center*. From East-West Center: <https://www.eastwestcenter.org/news/web-article/china%E2%80%99s-strategic-motivations-in-the-indo-pacific-and-implications-us-china>
- Manca, G. (2023, October 4). Beyond Rhetoric: The Tangible Impact of China-US Decoupling. *The Diplomat*.
- Manzoor, S. (2021). China's Grand Strategy in the Asia-Pacific Region: An English School Perspective. *Margalla Papers*, 81-91.
- Mazarr, M. J., Fredrick, B., & Crane, Y. K. (2022). *Understanding a New Era of Strategic Competition*. RAND.
- McBride, J., Berman, N., & Chatzky, A. (2023, February 2). *Council on Foreign Relations*. From Council on Foreign Relations: <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/chinas-massive-belt-and-road-initiative>
- McGregor, R. (2022, October 20). *Lowy Institute*. From Lowy Institute: <https://www.lowyinstitute.org/publications/chinese-coercion-australian-resilience>
- Mearsheimer, J. J. (2001). *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*. Norton.
- Mohammad, S. (2023, April 16). *The AUKUS alliance and its implications in the Indo-Pacific region*. Retrieved September 28, 2023 from Modern Diplomacy: <https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2023/04/16/the-aukus-alliance-and-its-implications-in-the-indo-pacific-region/>
- Mooradian, M. G. (2024, January 18). *Foreign Policy Research Institute*. From Foreign Policy Research Institute: <https://www.fpri.org/article/2024/01/chinas-challenge-to-the-international-economic-order/>
- Morton, K. (2016). China's ambition in the South China Sea: is a legitimate maritime order possible? *International Affairs (Royal Institute of International Affairs 1944-)*, 92(04), 909-940.
- MP, T. H. (2023, August 11). *The Australian Government Defense*. From The Australian Government Defense: <https://www.minister.defence.gov.au/media-releases/2023-08-11/australia-host-exercise-malabar-first-time>
- Oktay. (2021, August 20). *Ankasam*. From Ankasam: <https://ankasam.org/great-power-rivalry-in-asia-pacific-the-arms-race/?lang=en>
- Pandit, R. (2023, April 29). *The Times of India*. From The Time of India: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/rest-of-world/quad-aukus-attempts-to-contain-china-russia/articleshow/99856653.cms>

- PR Newswire. (2023, May 22). PR Newswire. From PR Newswire:
<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/china-russia-comprehensive-strategic-partnership-of-coordination-for-a-new-era-to-keep-advancing-at-high-level-301778825.html>
- Ravenhill, J. (2013). Economics and Security in the Asia-Pacific Region. *The Pacific Review*, 26(1), 1-15.
- Rehman, M. F. (2023, March 2023). 9Dashline. From 9Dashline:
<https://www.9dashline.com/article/the-quads-public-goods-approach-countering-the-bri>
- Robb, T. K., & Gill, D. J. (2015). The ANZUS Treaty during the Cold War. *Journal of Cold War Studies*, 17(04), 109-157.
- Rondeaux, C., & Slaughter, A. M. (2022). *Some Awkward Truths about Aukus*. From Security and Defense Plus: <https://securityanddefenceplus.plusalliance.org/essays/some-awkward-truths-about-aukus/>
- Russian News Agency. (2024, May 16). From Russian News Agency:
<https://tass.com/world/1789235>
- Shahzad, D. M., & Khan, M. R. (2022). Quad: The U.S. Strategic Alliance for the Indo-Pacific and the Chinese Counterbalance. *Pakistan Journal of Multidisciplinary Research*, 3(2), 56-72.
- Shankar IAS Parliament. (2021, September 15). From Shankar IAS Parliament:
<https://www.shankariasparliament.com/current-affairs/formation-of-quadrilateral-security-dialogue-quad>
- Shrikhande, S. (2022). AUKUS and Quad Have Eyes on China. *Proceedings*.
- Silver, L., Devlin, K., & Huang, C. (2019). *China's Economic Growth Mostly Welcomed in Emerging Markets, but Neighbors Wary of Its Influence*. Pew Research Center.
- Smith, S. A. (2021, May 27). *Council on Foreign Relations*. From Council on Foreign Relations:
<https://www.cfr.org/in-brief/quad-indo-pacific-what-know>
- Sobarini, E., Waluyo, S. D., & Rajab, D. A. (2021). AUKUS Pact in the Perspective of Security Dilemma. *International Journal of Social Science And Human Research*, 04(12), 3981-3985.
- Sundararaman, S. (2021, June 18). The New Indian Express. From The New Indian Express:
<https://www.newindianexpress.com/opinions/columns/2021/Jun/17/is-blue-dot-network-an-alternative-to-chinas-bri-2317283.html>

- Tandon, A. (2021, September 23). *Republic World*. From Republic World:
<https://www.republicworld.com/world-news/explained-difference-between-quad-and-aukus-and-key-commonalities-of-both-alliances?amp=1>
- Tang, S. (2009). The Security Dilemma: A Conceptual Analysis. *Security Studies*, 18(3), 287-623. From <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/09636410903133050>
- The White House*. (2022, April 05). From The White House:
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/04/05/fact-sheet-implementation-of-the-australia-united-kingdom-united-states-partnership-aukus/>
- Umar, A. M., & Santoso, Y. N. (2023). AUKUS and Southeast Asia's Ontological Security Dilemma. *SAGE Journals*, 78(3), 435–453. doi: 10.1177/00207020231197767
- Waltz, K. N. (1979). *Theory of international politics*. Addison-Wesley.
- Wei, Z. (2022). The evolution of the 'QUAD': driving forces, impacts, and prospects. *Springer Nature*, 288-304.
- Wirth, C., & Jenne, N. (2022, 02 08). Filling the void: The Asia-Pacific problem of order and emerging Indo-Pacific regional multilateralism. *Contemporary Security Policy*, 43(2), 213-242. From <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/epdf/10.1080/13523260.2022.2036506?needAccess=true>
- Wivel, A., & Buzdugan, S. (n.d.). *Security dilemma | International Relations, Conflict Resolution*. Retrieved October 1, 2023 from Britannica:
<https://www.britannica.com/topic/security-dilemma>
- Yanovsky, O. (2023, April 29). *The Diplomat*. From The Diplomat:
<https://thediplomat.com/2023/04/why-does-russia-care-about-aukus/>
- Yatharth Kachiar, P. V. (2021, October 27). *the interpreter*. From the interpreter:
<https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/aukus-quad-foip-fragmented-approach-cannot-counter-china>