

CHINA'S ECONOMIC MODERNIZATION: AN ANALYSIS OF XI JINPING THOUGHT



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2025

FORWARDING CERTIFICATE

The research entitled “**China’s Economic Modernization: An Analysis of Xi Jinping Thought**” is conducted under my supervision and the thesis is submitted to International Islamic University Islamabad in the partial fulfillment of the requirement of the degree of MS Management Science (HRM) with my permission.

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DECLARATION

I, Rimsha Gull, Registration No.129-FSS/MSPS/F21, MS scholar in the Department of Politics & International Relations at International Islamic University Islamabad, do here by solemnly declare that the thesis entitled, “**China’s Economic Modernization: An Analysis of Xi Jinping Thought**” submitted by me in partial fulfillment of the requirement of MS in the subject of Political Science is my original work. I solemnly declare that this is my original work and has not been submitted or published earlier and also shall not be submitted in future. It shall not be submitted by me in future for obtaining any degree from this or any other university or institution.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Although feelings are deep but unfortunately the words are too shallow that cannot follow the depth of my feelings. I find no way to convey my gratitude to my benefactors, so I must go along the old conventional way. The names may be mentioned but it is possible to capture the extent and the significance of their help. The most Gracious and the most Generous to all, **The ALMIGHTY ALLAH**, who created man out of lot and who infused into him such a dynamic force to serve as His representative in the universe, **ALMIGHTY ALLAH** guides in darkness and helps us in difficulties. So, I offer my humblest and sincerest **THANKS** To **ALLAH** who bestowed me the opportunity and spirit to make the material assessments in already exiting, ocean of knowledge of the subject. All respect of our **HOLLY PROPHET (PBUH)**, who enabled us to recognize the purpose of creation.

I am grateful from the core of my heart to all respected teachers. Especially, I am thankful to **Dr. Noor Fatima** my research supervisor, who helped me a lot during my research. In this regard I also want to thank to all of my siblings & friends who had been my supporters during the research. From the core of my heart, I wish to thank my beloved Parents. It is my moral responsibility to be **THANKFUL** to my all respondents

ENDLESS PRAYERS,

RIMSHA GULL

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AD	Anno Domini
ADB	African Development Bank
ADB	Asian Development Bank AEA Atomic Energy Act
AP	Associated Press
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
BBC	British Broadcasting Corporation
BRI	Belt and Road Initiative
CARs	Central Asian Republics
CBMs	Confidence Building Measures
CENTO	Central Treaty Organization
CPEC	China-Pakistan Economic Corridor
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HEC	Higher Education Commission
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
UEP	United Energy Pakistan
WDS	Western Development Strategy
WHO	World Health Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization

ABSTRACT

This study aimed to comprehend the process of modernization concerning the economic advancement of the People's Republic of China. The research sought to examine the elements of modernization to comprehend the process. It was specifically deal with Xi Jinping's doctrine in order to analyze China's progress as a game changer in the new era of world politics. The study was specifically analyzing the current Chinese model under Xi Jinping as compared to the market economic model. China's engagement in South Asia mostly centers on the two nuclear nations of the subcontinent, India and Pakistan. In 2013, Chinese President Xi Jinping introduced the One Belt One Road initiative to facilitate comprehensive cooperation with relevant countries. The Chinese strategy in South Asia comprises a series of unique bilateral relationships, marked by territory disputes, security concerns, the maintenance of power equilibrium, economic prospects, and opposition to United States involvement. For better understanding of the research study, inquantitative analysis, statistical test; mean, standard deviation, t-test an ANOVA were applied meanwhile in thematic analysis Modernization theory was applied to China in the past as well, especially during the era of economic reform and liberalization that started in the late 1970s. Xi Jinping's initiatives have propelled China to the fifth stage of economic development. Nonetheless, China's distinctive cultural, social, and historical environment has significantly influenced its developmental trajectory, and the government has enacted policies that embody these elements as well. A SWOT analysis that applies modernization theory shows that China is in the stages of modernization as characterized by their economic transition, their social change, and their political transitions. In sum, there are elements of the country's impressive modernization of its economy and society, but inequality, environmental sustainability, and regulatory limitations stress that the modernization process remains a work in progress. This theoretical perspective highlights China's dual identity as a modernizing country and a leading agent of global modernization, and in such ambivalence, China faces challenges that come with opportunities and threats in the process of development.

Keywords:*Economic Modernization, Xi Jinping, One Belt One Road initiative, BRI*

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CHAPTER 1

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 An Overview of Modernization

The traditional view that modernization can only mean Westernization is being challenged by China's development. It presents an alternate notion of modernity, expanding the worldwide comprehension of this phenomenon. In contrast to Western modernization, which has traditionally included exploitation and colonialism, China's strategy is founded on peace, progress, and collaboration, emphasizing harmony between mankind and environment rather than exterior expansion. Aiming for all-encompassing development that incorporates social welfare and economic growth, the core of China's modernization places a premium on material and cultural-ethical advancement. This approach differs from Western paradigms that primarily emphasize material advancement (Carmody, et al., 2020).

China has seen several transformations throughout the twentieth century, traceable to the 1980s, a modern era of advancement. These changes, which may be traced back to the reforms of 1978, have caused profound shifts in China's political landscape, cultural practices, and social fabric. Consequently, it has emerged as a significant threat to global frameworks, particularly in economic, political, and social domains. If neglected, these threats may disrupt the equilibrium of global economic dominance. Xi Jinping's philosophy has been a transformative force in Chinese history. The revolution of 1911 not only resulted in a change of power but also represented a transformation in the ideology of the populace from a backward to a modern civilization (Gallagher, et al., 2021).

This ideological transformation was achieved by revolutionary movements led by several personalities. Sun Yat-Sen is regarded as the preeminent and significant figure in Chinese history. He was the one who instigated the intellectual transformation that propelled China towards the revolution, thus resulting in the establishment of the CPC and Mao's accomplishments. The establishment of the CPC is undoubtedly a significant milestone in China's advancement (Li, et al., 2021).

China has undergone many periods of modernization from the reign of Deng Xiaoping, followed by Hu Jintao and Xi Jinping. Xi Jinping's tenure is seen as a transformative period in the emerging international order, leading to China's significant economic expansion and extensive worldwide engagement (Burov, 2022). It is accurate to assert that Xi Jinping's philosophy is an extension of Mao Zedong's political ideology. Xi Jinping has been a transformative figure in China's history. His measures have marked a pivotal moment in China's historical trajectory towards modernization. The late 1970s marked the beginning of China's economic transition away from a system of centralized control and toward a mixed socialist market economy (Petricevic, et al., 2019).

The Chinese economy is a distinctive combination of market-oriented and state-controlled elements. Since the beginning of economic reforms in 1978, China has gradually transitioned from a centrally planned economy to a more market-oriented framework, prioritizing private enterprise, foreign investment, and market mechanisms. Nevertheless, the state retains significant influence in key sectors of the economy, including as banking, telecommunications, electricity, and transportation. The policies enacted by the Chinese government influence the allocation of income and resources, as well as the trajectory of economic development. The government has significant regulatory authority over the economy (Pezzuto et al., 2019).

The features of China's economy are complex and varied. The economy is significant, diverse, and quickly changing, characterized by a unique blend of driven by markets and state-regulated elements. China is the world's second-largest economy, with a GDP of \$15 trillion, and has a significant and growing middle class. The Chinese economy is driven by a mix of domestic and foreign investment, focusing on manufacturing, infrastructure development, and advanced technology industries. China is a significant player in global trade, with a considerable presence in international marketplaces for goods and services. China has become a crucial element in the global power equilibrium. It has begun operating as an ordering authority that has insufficiently transformed power relations (Mishra, 2022).

Xi Jinping's philosophy has significantly influenced China's path to modernization. It has facilitated China's progression toward a new age of development. Xi Jinping's ideology comprises a multifaceted array of policies and concepts that are exclusive to China, mirroring the nation's particular political, economic, and social milieu. It incorporates several ideas and methodologies, including Marxist-Leninist ideology, traditional Chinese culture, and modernization theory. Nonetheless, it resists straightforward classification under existing theoretical frameworks and is better seen as a distinctive and dynamic assemblage of policies and concepts that embody China's contemporary political and economic aspirations (Romundstad, 2022).

On top of that, China's progress provides a different perspective on international engagement. The ambition to control or exploit other nations is not its driving force. China aspires to have a good influence on society worldwide via initiatives including environmental protection, poverty reduction, and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). There is clear evidence of China's active participation in global concerns, such as its efforts to reduce poverty, promote fair wealth, and prioritize clean energy and environmental protection. As a modern nation, China stands out for its commitment to peace. Avoiding military alliances therefore proxy battles, it promotes peaceful growth and has a history of not starting wars. China demonstrates its readiness to engage in political resolutions for various regional difficulties by proactively tackling global concerns. Chinese modernity presents a complete and more different viewpoint compared to the traditional, Western-centric concept of modernization. It offers a valuable framework for countries pursuing development models tailored to their unique circumstances and developmental stage, emphasizing the need of peaceful advancement, fair growth, environmental sustainability, and international cooperation (Ruta, et al., 2019).

Xi Jinping has articulated a transformational perspective on modernization, asserting that Chinese-style modernization transcends the conventional concept of "modernization as Westernization. This ideology seeks to revolutionize the world by implementing a new paradigm based on Marxist ideas and China's extensive legacy.

It is defined as a new human civilization. Xi Jinping underscored the revolutionary essence of modernization in the Chinese context during his address to distinguished members of the CCP. He saw it as a significant triumph that represented progress in the evolution of Marxism in China. In contrast to Western models, this ideology promotes economic development while preserving present political structures, beliefs, and control mechanisms (Tsang, et al., 2022).

Consequently, it is deemed scientific. To protect national interests while reinforcing state authority and ideology, modernization under the Chinese framework fundamentally equilibrates progress with security. Xi Jinping asserts that the effectiveness of this paradigm, which emphasizes the Party's leadership, is rooted in China's traditional culture, incorporates scientific socialism, and adapts to global progress while conforming to the trajectory of human civilization. Xi Jinping claims that this non-Western developmental path is not exclusive to China; it offers rising countries a novel framework that challenges Western ideologies. For nations seeking modernization while preserving their social and cultural traditions, this autonomous and innovative paradigm presents a genuine opportunity. This concept pertains to "Socialist spirituality," which offers both theoretical foundations and practical instruments to oppose human rights and democratic efforts. It further solidifies China's goal of leading a coalition of non-democratic nations globally. In his speech on Chinese-style modernization, Xi Jinping lays out a new paradigm, offering a fresh perspective on how to modernize that is not influenced by the West. This approach promotes a strategy that is both inclusive and adaptable, with the goal of empowering rising nations to navigate modernization on their own, based on their cultural identity (Prasad, et al., 2006).

As Xi Jinping has pushed for modernization in China, the focus has been on innovation and change as means to boost the economy and advance social fairness. Xi stresses that this path is not limited to only surpassing capitalist efficiency; it seeks to contribute internationally while also providing affluent lives for 1.4 billion people. An important theoretical step forward for socialism was Xi's emphasis on "general prosperity" as the central premise at a high-level CPC discussion session. The historic

eradication of poverty is evidence that the people-oriented CPC government pursues universal prosperity. Presented during the 20th CPC National the Congress, Xi's vision calls for a unified approach to Party leadership that integrates economic and cultural development. China is committed to increasing its global role by making use of both home and foreign resources, while also being aware of potential obstacles. In contrast to Westernization, China's approach to modernization provides a diverse paradigm, giving other nations more alternatives. China's dedication to autonomous, self-sufficient growth and global participation is shown by Xi's focus on methodical integration and an integrated approach (Van Dijk, et al., 2016).

1.2 Critical Analysis of Modernization

Amid a myriad of opportunities and challenges, China's economic modernization is a paradigm of revolutionary advancement that has altered its worldwide position. Since Deng Xiaoping's economic reforms in 1978, China has evolved from a state-controlled to a market-oriented economy, leading to substantial progress and the emancipation of hundreds of millions from poverty. Critical reasons include industrial advancement, urbanization, and the proliferation of international trade, especially after the nation's entry into the World Trade Organization in 2001, which enabled its assimilation into global markets. However, there have been significant challenges brought forth by this development. Problems with environmental degradation, economic inequality between the cities and the countryside, and heavy reliance on debt-driven infrastructure have all led to questions about long-term viability (Zhu, X. (2023)). The government's stringent regulation of financial markets and increasing emphasis on state-owned firms indicate a persistent conflict between market liberalization and political centralization. Furthermore, China's quest for self-sufficiency in essential technology and its Belt and Road Initiative highlight its geopolitical aspirations while exacerbating global economic tensions, especially with the United States. Increasing labor expenses, demographic changes such as an aging populace, and escalating trade challenges further hamper its modernization path. China's spectacular successes depend on its capacity to confront

structural obstacles, manage external pressures, and modify its development model to ensure sustained long-term prosperity (Wenshan, 2017).

Many developed nations' focus on wealth, consumerism, and the erosion of traditional beliefs and social cohesiveness has coincided with their economic might and technological advancement. The core essence of modernization, according to President Xi Jinping, goes beyond monetary prosperity and encompasses holistic human growth as well as the improvement of cultural and ethical principles. A Chinese adage succinctly conveys this idea: "Only when fundamental needs are satisfied can individuals concentrate on decorum, dignity, and disgrace." The Chinese dream centers on a peaceful environment in which cultural pursuits take precedence over material needs, becoming a fundamental aspect of social values. Modernity represents the revival, rather than the destruction, of historic traditions, as thinkers such as Plato, Confucius, and Mencius contemplated the Axial Age 2,500 years ago in their quest for cultural and ethical advancement. President Xi Jinping's Global Civilization Initiative emphasizes the preservation and establishment of new civilizations, the appreciation of their variety, and the promotion of concepts like as equality, knowledge sharing, dialogue, and inclusivity. Chinese ideals underscore the need of continual regeneration, especially for enduring regimes. The objective of China's modernization is to revive its profound culture to provide distinctive insights into attaining global harmony, material prosperity, and individual growth (Xing, 2018).

Before the official release of Xi Jinping's Socialist Economic Thoughts on Communists with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, scholars mostly referenced "Xi Jinping's Significant Discourse on Economic Work" and "Xi Jinping's Economic Strategic Thought." Many experts have recognized the "new economic normal," a term first presented by Xi Jinping during his 2017 visit to Henan, as a vital subject for future study. The Central Committee of the Communist Party of China approved the Proposal for Formulating the 13th Five-Year Plan for China's Economic and Social Development in October 2015 at the Fifth Session of the 18th Central Committee. This proposal presented the principles of innovative, strategic, sustainable, accessible,

and collaborative growth. At the following full legislature of the 18th Communist Party of China's Fifth Plenary Session, Xi Jinping underscored the need of converting ideas into actions (Vertin, et al., 2020). He said that development is a guiding concept that reflects the ideation, direction, and concentrate of progress, and that it is also a strategic and programmatic concept. Innovative development seeks to address growth drivers; coordinated development tackles the challenge of unbalanced growth; sustainable development seeks to reconcile humanity with nature; open development seeks to unravel the complexities of both internal and outer developmental linkages; and shared development seeks to promote social equity and justice. Xi Jinping has clarified the logical connections among these five developmental themes. Xi Jinping emphasized that the new development philosophy represents a significant transformation in the overarching framework of China's economic growth in his subsequent key speeches (Lei et al., 2023).

The Economic Work Conference of the supreme leadership of the Communist Party of China in December 2017 emphasized the significance of adopting a holistic perspective, devising meticulous strategies, and executing these strategies to facilitate a methodical comprehension of China's successful growth by the global community. Furthermore, the new development philosophy embodies the core of Xi Jinping's socialist socioeconomic ideology of capitalism with Chinese features for a new age, which has been actualized. Consequently, the Socialist Macroeconomic Thoughts of Xi Jinping were established by China's paramount authorities. This exemplifies the significance of Xi Jinping's socialist economics inside a segment of Xi Jinping Thinking on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era. Xi Jinping's socialist economic ideology has seven principles that guide it, with novel advancement as the latest concept. To guarantee that China's economy progresses appropriately, it must adhere to the party's centralized and united leadership in economic matters. To further human-centered improvement, the Chinese government will execute the Four-Pronged Complete Strategy and the Five-Sphere Integrated Plan. The Five-Sector Comprehensive Plan is China's comprehensive framework for constructing a distinctly Chinese socialist society. It fosters synchronized advancement across several domains, particularly in finance, politics, arts, society, and the surroundings. To

construct socialism with Chinese characteristics, China employs a policy framework known as the Four-pronged Detailed policy. Comprehensive reforms, the advancement of the rule of law, the strengthening of Party independence from government, and the attainment of a relatively affluent society in all dimensions are to be realized (Tibbs, et al., 2011).

China must adapt to the new economic growth paradigm, identify developmental principles within the larger framework, and allow the market to play a central role in resource allocation. The government's role must be strengthened, and structural impediments to economic advancement should be entirely eradicated. An innovative strategy for economic development must be executed via a problem-oriented approach, profoundly influencing the evolution of China's economic and social advancement. It must adhere to suitable operational plans and procedures, prioritize stability throughout progress, maintain strategic resolve, account for worst-case scenarios, and advance accordingly (Qiao & Zhang, 2021). Furthermore, it must continually adjust to the evolving primary contradictions in China's economic growth, enhance macroeconomic regulation, make appropriate decisions, and prioritize supply-side structural reform as the central focus of economic efforts (Xinhua. (2024).

1.3 Parameters of Modernization

Modernization is a complex process that entails significant changes across economic, social, political, and cultural aspects, transforming countries into more current and dynamic entities. Modernization, from an economic perspective, is characterized by a transition from agricultural systems to industrialized and service-oriented economies, propelled by technical innovations, automation, and the integration of global commerce. After this happens, people start moving from rural areas to cities, which leads to urbanization and the development of modern infrastructure, housing, and transportation (Kishida, 2017). Having a well-educated populace is crucial because it fosters analytical thinking, innovation, and a competent labor force. When it comes to politics, modernization means putting modern state structures in place that are based on openness, transparency, and public participation, as well as democratic leadership and the rule of law. It promotes gender equality,

individualism, and cultural shifts towards reason and secularism by challenging traditional hierarchies and practices. By reducing poverty and increasing life expectancy, modernity enhances people's quality of life via better healthcare, nutrition, and sanitation. It encourages participation in global frameworks via international cooperation and flexibility to global issues, such as sustainability, and it fosters new principles like liberty, equality, and fraternity. As a whole, these changes push society toward more complexity, efficiency, and inclusivity; but, along the way, there are frequently challenges and adjustments (Roberts, 2020).

1.4 Political System of Modernization

A particular feature of modern political systems has been the transformation of traditional, typically autocratic or autarchic structures and the delicate replacement of pre-existing institutions with more rational, participatory, smooth-running democratic ones. Unlike antiquated procedures or charismatic attraction, today's folkways are replaced with rational-legal attributes or authority, where the law, regulation and institutions are the basis for this form of authority for politics. In order to be a modern society, the system of government and governance should constitutionally be under the rule of law, that is, those in governance not over stepping their powers and ultimately accountable to the people, if not today, then tomorrow. Part of the process is the establishment of open executive branches, uncomplicated by personal or familial gain and above board; independent judiciaries; free presses; free institutions. Civic engagement is an important aspect of policy; there are various forms of participation in the policy-making process such as voting, public discourse or other democratic mechanisms in which citizens can participate. By encouraging participation by the disadvantaged and the advancement of gender equality in government, modernization stresses human rights protection and equal rights. In addition, secularism (delegitimization of religion guiding public actions), separating religion from state, and the promotion of rationalist (serving evidence rather than tradition or dogma) governance in place of religious ones are all components of political upgrading. The political systems are adapting to globalization through participation in world bodies and compliance with global conventions, treaties and

agreements. At the same time, it must meet other challenges which are: ensuring political stability in a swiftly changing society; halting the moves towards authoritarianism that stems from economic and technological development; and finding a happy medium between the centralization and decentralization of power. The modernizing polity constituents of effectiveness and inclusiveness, changing institutions, and popular mobilization are dynamically interrelated (Hoo, et al., 2022).

A Chinese proverb promoting the resolution of animosity is seen in the recent diplomatic advancements in the reestablishment of relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia, facilitated by China. This alteration aligns with a wider global trend towards peace, as an increasing number of governments pursue reconciliation. China underscores its dedication to peace and justice within a context of dynamic modernization by adopting a neutral position and actively facilitating mediation attempts to alleviate tensions in the current Ukraine issue. In October, the 20th CPC National Congress delineated China's developmental strategy, underscoring the nation's distinctive modernization trajectory towards complete rejuvenation (Moore, 2022). The onus of Chinese diplomacy, aimed at fostering peaceful growth, is central to this undertaking. China aims to foster a new era characterized by peace, tolerance, equality, and mutual respect via its diplomatic initiatives. China aligns with the ambitions of all nations to create a future defined by global hospitality, sustainable resource use, and enduring peace. Through assertive positions in international relations and the initiation of diplomatic efforts, China has reinforced its status as a prominent advocate for modernization. The objective is to establish a world in which all individuals may thrive and experience security (Hung, et al., 2022).

1.5 Governance and Contemporary Techniques

More and more, cutting-edge approaches to public administration are shaping modern government by improving openness, efficiency, and citizen engagement through the use of data, technology, and new strategies. These approaches are cornerstones of modern forms of government that place an emphasis on transparency, accountability, and the improvement of society as a whole. Digital technology, particularly e-governance, has emerged as an important modern tool. It enables

governments to make bureaucracy more efficient, deliver services digitally, and decrease corruption through increased transparency. Quick communication between the citizens and the public sector is facilitated through the use of digital platforms, thus enabling real-time feedback on policy and public contribution to decision making, (Terry, et al., 2017).

One of the key aspects of data-driven governance refers to the volumes of data collected and analysed by governments to guide policy, predict trends and allocate resources more effectively. With evidence based decisions, so many industries can be greatly benefited like urban planning, health care, transport, disaster management et al., public service can be greatly improved using big data, AI and machine learning. “Smart cities” demonstrate how technology can be deployed as a means of improving the quality of life for city dwellers by aggregating data and optimising urban operations through the use of Internet of Things (IoT) devices and sensors (Wei, et al., 2017).

The 2008 financial crisis closed down market open-ness and trade liberalization of neoliberal tendencies, closing globalization model 3.0. The global economic mayhem, or rather carnage wreaked upon us by global systems of power and inequality, that really came out of this North-American-based system. The U.S. hegemony in world politics is no longer there after the financial crisis of 2008. Following President Trump’s 2016 victory, a more insular protectionist approach has taken effect, breaking with the spirit of globalization. This change has created uncertainty over what America’s role in the world will be.

According to President Xi Jinping’s 2016 big address at Davos, China used the occasion to declare its intention to take the lead in global governance and economic and political affairs. In response to accusations that economic globalization is the root cause of world instability, President Xi has defended China’s stance on the matter. He argues that careful leadership may mitigate its harmful impacts. As the United States retreats inside, China takes pride in becoming a leader in a reborn economic globalization that is more equitable and long-term. The notion of “Chi globalization”

underscores China's role in establishing a new paradigm for humanity, including economic progress, governance, scientific improvement, and Cultural Revolution. This approach aligns with China's transformative "One Belt, One Road" initiative, aimed at augmenting China's global influence via the establishment of extensive trade routes connecting Asia, Europe, the Middle East, North Africa, and the MENA region (Paggi, 2018).

Unlike the diluted "Washington Consensus," China's "Beijing Consensus" promotes a more inclusive global framework that acknowledges the distinctions across nations. This article introduces a multicultural framework that incorporates features from both Western and Eastern cultures, signifying the very start of the fourth wave of globalization. In order to demonstrate its global preeminence by peaceful means, China's primary policy emphasizes dialogue, networking, economic cooperation, and cultural exchanges. By launching the Belt and Road Program, China is demonstrating its commitment to a paradigm shift in globalization that will reshape world economic governance, promote inclusive growth, and bring development into harmony (Liu, 2020).

Transparency technologies such as open government programs and platforms for monitoring government spending are recent developments. This illustrates the contemporary trends of governance that focuses on the reduction of corruption and maximizing public resources. A decentralized model of government makes more sense because it allows local governments to tailor their responses to community needs and conditions." Although these approaches are promising in terms of better governance, they also bring challenges, among them the protection of privacy and data security, the treatment of digital inequality and avoiding over-surveillance and marginalization of marginal groups. In the modern world, maintaining a balance between modern high-tech and democratic standards, equality, and inclusiveness is crucial for the effective functioning of government (Gang, 2023).

1.6 Resource Utilization and People Welfare

Contemporary politics and economic evolution depend on the ability to consume natural resources and the quality of human life. Ensuring a better way of life for people is what successful resource management is all about. The concept of sustainability the use and reuse of material, human, and environmental resources such that present needs are met while not jeopardizing the ability of future generations to meet their needs is central to the modern world. This includes things like not wasting water and energy, farming responsibly, and sustainably managing forests and minerals. Governments can lower the costs, improve the effectiveness, and make certain that important services, such as health care, education and infrastructure, are widely available among all of their citizens (Fallon, et al., 2015).

Meeting physiological needs and enhancing the general welfare of the population require efficient allocation of resources, and it helps in turn to channel resources that would otherwise flow to the welfare of individuals. Where does social infrastructure fit in, such as public healthcare, schools, housing, and sanitation? These should be funded because they help people live their lives. Governments mitigate poverty, reduce inequality and promote social mobility by ensuring everyone has relatively equal access to this services. A more equitable distribution, narrowing disparities and strengthening social cohesion, is the result of well-managed resources in these areas. In addition, people's well-being is greatly affected by how economic resources, such as human capital, are optimized. People may improve their living conditions, contribute more economically, and adapt to a changing job market by investing in their education and skill development. As a result, the economy becomes more robust and inclusive, which in turn increases the number of available jobs and boosts economic growth overall (Dittmer, 2016).

Governments spend tax money, social program funds, and other forms of public revenue to enhance the quality of life for their citizens. To guarantee that the most vulnerable people get essential assistance, particularly during recessions, it is crucial to carefully allocate resources to social security systems, welfare programs, benefits for unemployment, and healthcare. Prioritization is essential for optimizing

available resources. The welfare of individuals may be compromised by inequality, environmental degradation, poverty, and suboptimal resource utilization resulting from mismanagement, corruption, or inefficiency. To handle present requirements and strategize for the future, organizations must consider the long-term implications of their resource allocation. Economic growth, social justice, environmental sustainability, and responsible resource management are the cornerstones of a welfare-enhancing resource-usage policy framework (Diamond, & Schell, 2019).

1.7 Modernization and State Control

Many see modernization and state control as complementary, if not mutually exclusive, aspects of a nation's development. The term "modernization" is used to describe the process by which a society's social, political, and economic structures change from more traditional or agrarian to more technological, urban, and industrialized ones. In nations where the government plays a significant role in the economy and governance, state control remains an essential component in directing and impacting development, despite modernization's emphasis on individual liberty, decentralization, and the amplified dynamics of the market (Davidann, 2018).

Industry, infrastructure development, education, healthcare, and technological growth are all areas in which the state plays an important role in modernization efforts. Governments nowadays often carry out massive projects, regulate industries, and provide the legal and institutional frameworks that modern economies rely on to function. In China, the state has actively facilitated economic modernization via state-directed capitalism, with government involvement in critical areas like infrastructure, energy, and high-tech industries propelling fast economic development. Likewise, social programs, regulatory frameworks, and governmental expenditures in public goods and services are essential for guaranteeing that the advantages of modernization are widely disseminated and accessible to the populace (Angang, et al., 2022).

The term "chi globalization," first introduced in 2009, has transitioned from a theoretical idea to a tangible representation of China's substantial influence in the global sphere. Since 2013, China's projects, like the Chinese Dream and Xi Jinping's

Belt and Road Initiative, have been influenced by the concept of Chi globalization, which is informed by Niall Ferguson's work and the overwhelming popularity of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games. The rise of China as a worldwide power is shown by its increasing influence and leadership in several domains, a process referred to as Chinese globalization. Its objectives include the reformation of national and international governance, the growth of scientific and technical innovation, the cultivation of a multicultural and pragmatic cosmopolitan society, and the provision of a novel perspective on global affairs. The global community has acknowledged China's expanding influence, attributed to its strong economy, cultural initiatives such as the Confucian Institutes, and strategic international investments (Paggi, 2018). Terms such as "Chimerica" and "Chinafornia," which signify economic interdependence and active engagement, illustrate China's pronounced impact on the United States. Discussions on Chinese investment with the United States are now under progress. The Belt and Road Initiative, along with similar endeavors, represents significant progress towards China's objective of achieving global supremacy, a status it has failed to attain despite its superpower designation. China's fundamental strategy prioritizes economic cooperation and cultural exchanges above military dominance, emphasizing communication and connectivity.

A commitment to multilateralism is congruent with China's globalization. It offers a unified view of globalization that is more welcoming, varied, peaceful, and inclusive. In line with multilateralism, Chinese globalization prioritizes modernization for impoverished countries and infrastructure improvements for wealthy ones. This new era of globalization seeks diversity and inclusion, driven by China's guiding collectivist ideology. China's Belt and Road Initiative is depicted as a global public asset that advocates for globalization and international governance. Contrary to previous accusations, China's proactive involvement in global efforts demonstrates its dedication to a collective future. In light of the previous errors of globalization, the West, particularly the United States, ought to endorse China's Belt and Road Initiative. Chi globalization, which fosters inclusion, is a transformative influence in the dynamic sphere of global governance (Tibbs, et al., 2011).

On the other side, problems with individual freedom, democracy, and market efficiency might arise when modernization necessitates governmental control. Faster economic and technological progress may be possible with some government engagement in national development, but too much government control may lead to bureaucratic inefficiency, stifle innovation, and limit individual or business rights. Suppression of dissent, limitation of individual freedoms, and impediment to the establishment of democratic institutions are all possible outcomes of state control over economic and political processes under some totalitarian regimes. The political modernization necessary for fully functional democracies may be hampered, for example, by a government that controls the media extensively and suppresses civil society (Xinhua. (2024).

The success of modernization efforts may also depend on how strict government regulations are. Problems including inefficiency, corruption, and a mismatch between state policy and local needs are possible with a government that is too centralized. On the other hand, decentralized systems with greater local control could be better at meeting specific area needs, but they might struggle to keep the country coordinated and coherent. As they modernize, many nations face the age-old dilemma of how to balance centralized government power with decentralized market dynamics, often called political liberty Zhu, X. (2023).

A complex balance between individual rights, social fairness, market forces and government control is necessary for modernization. To facilitate innovation, social stability, and the correction of inequalities, governments must adjust their role in the process, but they must be careful not to let their power impede the all-encompassing social transformation that modernization seeks to achieve. Depending on how it is put into practice, state control in this complex relationship may either encourage or discourage modernization (Xing, 2018).

China recognizes the critical significance of connection, especially in transport, to promote development and enhance economic growth, in accordance with the president's modernization strategy. The One Belt One Road initiative encompasses

the ancient Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road. China recognises the critical significance of connection, especially in transport infrastructure, to promote development and enhance economic growth, in accordance with Xi Jinping's modernization strategy. This comprehensive investment initiative includes the One Belt One Road concept, which consists of the Silk Road Financial Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road. A key component of this framework is the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), led by China. This coalition includes South Korea, Japan, China, India, and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. In 2014, when India's GDP exceeded that of ASEAN nations, the Council of Southeast Asian Nations became the world's seventh-largest economic power, with a collective GDP of US\$2.6 trillion. These measures illustrate China's commitment to Xi Jinping's modernization objectives by showcasing its readiness to use cooperative economic relationships to attain enduring global and regional prosperity (Roberts, 2020).

Xi Jinping has led an unprecedented "anti-corruption campaign" that leaves no room for error. For five years, from the 18th to the 19th CPC National Congress, 440 provincial and ministerial party cadres were investigated and eventually sanctioned. A multitude of provincial and ministerial officials have been convicted following investigations into over 100 cadres affiliated with the Communist Party of China's Department of Internal Affairs Organization, initiated by the Central Committee for Discipline Inspection and the National Overseeing Commission after the 19th CPC National Congress. Foreign Affairs indicate that Xi Jinping is resolute in preserving the preeminent status of the world's biggest and most affluent Marxist-Leninist organization. Xi Jinping was formally acknowledged as the principal figure of the 18th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, and his crucial role within the Party was reiterated at the Sixth Plenary Session in 2016. Italian Chamber of Deputies President Roberto Fico met with Xi Jinping in March 2019. "How did you feel when you were elected president of China?" Fico asked Xi Jinping. The challenge of managing a large country is very difficult, and Xi acknowledged this. We pledge our undying devotion to the people and will never let them down. Devoting ourselves

to China's development and attaining a state of "no-self" are our paramount priorities (Lei, et al., 2023).

1.8 Reform and Socialist Modernization

Xi Jinping asserts that the Chinese government is historically closer than ever and is certain of its ability to realize the enormous resurgence of the Chinese people. The aim of China's 19th CPC National Congress is to create a middle-class society. Thus, socialism will achieve technology by 2035 after an additional 15 years of dedicated labor. In the next fifteen years, China might transform into a significant modern socialist country by the mid-twenty-first century, contingent upon collective endeavor. The Chinese government is firmly dedicated to providing a solution that fulfils the populace's expectations. During Xi Jinping's seventh year as president, China's GDP exceeded 90 trillion yuan, positioning the nation as the second largest globally. China is not only the largest industrial nation but also leads in product sales, has the highest foreign currency reserves, ranks second in foreign direct investment (FDI), and is second in consumer goods consumption (Vertin, et al., 2020).

In 2021, the Chinese government's statistical agency and the World Bank predict an 8.5% increase in China's gross domestic product (GDP), compared to a 5.6% increase globally. China produces more than 220 different types of industrial products at a higher volume than any other country in the world. Its high-speed rail network is miles longer than any other and it has sent a probe to the moon's far side. The first time China topped the list was in 2021, when 143 Chinese companies made it into the list of the world's 500 largest organizations. All of this success is a result of the hard work of the Chinese people and the far-reaching and significant progress that reform and opening up have made. Xi Jinping is dead set on seeing through the "social revolution" that Deng Xiaoping started in 1978 with reform and opening up. After being elected general secretary in 2012, he went to Shenzhen to make his case that reform and opening-up are the driving forces behind modern China. Reforms and liberalization will reach a dead end if they are halted or reversed (Terry, et al., 2017).

The reform heralds a new era in the removal of entrenched interests, spearheaded by Xi Jinping. Systemic, comprehensive, and synergistic development is major tenets of the reform's high-level design. A significant reform initiative was declared, accompanied by a seven-year plan for extensive reform implementation, at the Third Plenary Session of the 18th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China in 2013. Xi Jinping delineated the overarching goals of comprehensive reform as the modernization of China's governmental framework and capabilities, alongside the enhancement and refinement of the socialist model with Chinese characteristics. Chinese President Xi Jinping has emphasized the need of innovation and results-oriented governance, asserting that mere rhetoric is detrimental to China, while tangible actions may facilitate its development. It is the responsibility of the Chinese government to take specific measures and ensure that they are carried out. The amazing "China speed" and "China projects" that have emerged so often in recent times may be better understood by outside parties if these insights are taken into consideration (Hung, et al., 2022).

Businesses, villages, cities, ports, schools, and even military barracks have been on Xi Jinping's tour route since 2012, as he meets with locals to gauge and guide social and economic development, reform, and liberalization. On occasion, he had to climb high mountains that were several thousand meters above the sea. If he needed to go to a town, he would sometimes get off the plane, switch trains, and then get on a bus. During his visits, he would sometimes pull up his trouser legs and raise an umbrella to talk to the people even if it was raining. He came up with the idea for the Yangtze River Economic Belt a number of years ago (Liu, 2020). In the modern era, new energy is supplied by the two river basins in China. Xi Jinping encouraged private companies to purchase shares in state-owned industries and drafted a reform program for these businesses that is more in line with market principles. At the conference on private companies, he said that entrepreneurs and private firms are essential parts of the country. "Innovation" is a phrase that Xi Jinping uses often. Charitable giving, according to Xi, will not receive necessary and important technology(Wei, et al., 2017).

Xi Jinping visited this region in 2019 and gave fresh orders to protect and enhance culture. He often argued that cultural confidence is deeper, broader, and more fundamental than other types of self-assurance. He has been in the forefront of efforts to modernize and streamline governance by reorganizing the Party and state institutions. The Chinese government has slashed administrative approvals by a third in the last several years. Companies no longer have to wait months for documents to be sealed since many places have implemented online approval and “one-stop” services. Legal frameworks are Xi Jinping’s way of promoting holistic governance. He stressed the need of understanding that one wrong decision might ruin 99 good ones. To reform the justice system, he said, one must use their judicial and prosecutorial powers independently and impartially in line with the law, improve the operational techniques for judicial authority, and refine the judicial protection of rights for humanity. On environmental issues, he introduced the famous idea of moderate rivers and verdant mountains. The document of approval of the Paris Agreement on climate change was personally presented by Xi Jinping to the UN Secretary-General. The efficacy of “Green China” has garnered global acclaim and adoration. Many cities have seen significant reductions in pollution levels. Xi advocated for the coordinated growth of the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region and the establishment of the Xiong’an New Area. The China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone, inaugurated in 2013, has effectively fostered the expansion of initial free trade agreements to 18, with Hainan Island now designated for development as a pilot free trade zone. Xi also announced the further liberalization of industries including as banking and automobile (Diamond & Schell, 2019).

1.9 Summary

China is one of the world’s most prominent rising socialist countries. The Chinese populace, under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, determines the nation’s social structure. A distinguishing characteristic of China’s economic system is the extensive subjugation of all people to the Party’s authority. Xi Jinping has overseen China’s economic and social advancement to an unexpected extent in recent years. Chinese academics assert that Xi Jinping’s Socialist Economic Thoughts

have profoundly influenced China's economic advancement. Drawing from and expanding upon Marxist economic theory, Xi Jinping's Socialist Economic Thoughts encapsulate and elevate China's social and economic development practices while providing useful theoretical guidance and reference for the social and economic development of other developing countries.

Chinese economic theorists have made substantial progress in recent years on a multi-faceted understanding of Xi Jinping's Socialist Economics Thoughts, including its origins and an intricate examination of its implications and extensions. Xi Jinping's Communist Economic Thought signifies a new epoch of socialism with Chinese features. The seven insistences provide the foundation of this new phase's expanding philosophy. The fundamental value orientation of Socialist Economic Thought is to priorities the welfare of the people. The essay identifies the beneficiaries of this socialist economy with Chinese features. His comprehension of the new normal is fundamental to his socialist socioeconomic views. Alongside a more profound elucidation of Marxist economic theory on productive forces and relations of manufacturing, Xi Jinping has established a novel framework to enhance the development of productive forces within Socialist Economic Thought on supply-side structural reform.

CHAPTER 2

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Overview of China's Economic Modernization

China's economic transformation is a monumental story of change, evolving from a largely agrarian society under state control to becoming one of the world's leading economies. This development may be categorized into many separate periods, each characterized by varying economic philosophies, leadership choices, and international contacts. The narrative starts with Mao Zedong's central planning methodology, which defined the economy for several decades after the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949. Under Mao's leadership, China implemented a socialist model grounded on collectivist ideals. The state regulated almost all sectors, including agriculture and industry, with the objective of creating an equitable society. However, Maoist economic policies, such as the Great Leap Forward (1958-1962), which sought to rapidly industrialize the country, led to catastrophic failure, resulting in widespread famine and millions of deaths. The subsequent Cultural Revolution (1966-1976) further undermined economic stability, focusing more on ideological purity and class struggle than economic progress. These periods marked a time of economic stagnation, with little to show in terms of modern infrastructure, technological development, or industrial output (Zhong, 2021).

The decisive turn took place in 1978, under Deng Xiaoping. Upon Mao's passing, Deng quickly saw the defects in Maoist economic policy and formulated the blueprint for the "Reform and Opening-Up" strategy. The reforms were designed to turn China into a socialist market economy and to give more authority to the local authorities so that they could make more decisions in their locality. Among its most prominent components was the collectivization of farming, which made it possible for individual farmers to keep and sell the land they farmed. He also created SEZs like Shenzhen where market-oriented policies could be tested. They promoted foreign investment and the transfer of technology and contributed to the country's industrialization accelerated across the country (Zhou, 2023).

Deng combined market forces with state control as a pragmatic strategy. He put in place a new economic model known as “socialism with Chinese characteristics,” in which the state retained control over vital sectors, especially heavy and strategic industries, while courting private enterprise and foreign capital in others. This strategy paved the way for China’s stunning economic success in the subsequent decades. The changes under Deng were pivotal in modernizing China, lifting the country from poverty and setting it on the path to becoming the “world’s factory,” a now flagging economy of mass production and exports(Sui, & Fu, 2022).

In the decades after Deng’s reforms, China continued to grow under the leadership of Jiang Zemin and Hu Jintao. China’s accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 2001 marked a significant milestone in its integration into the global economy. This facilitated China’s integration into international competition and allowed it to adopt an export-driven economic strategy. The nation’s export industry surged, particularly in manufacturing and electronics, establishing China as one of the globe’s largest exporters. The expansion of China’s middle class, rapid urbanization and infrastructural development has all facilitated a revival of domestic consumption and investment. But in spite of all this progress, problems of income inequality, environmental destruction and a rising dependence on export-led growth increasingly raised their ugly heads as causes for concern (Wang, & Zhang, 2023).

China’s emergence as a worldwide power has been positively impacted by its economic modernization, transitioning from a destitute agricultural culture to the world’s second-largest economy, which has significantly altered the course of the global economy. By the dawn of the 21st century, China had emerged as an economic powerhouse, mostly attributable to its rapid industrialization and export-driven development strategy. Its reputation as the “factory of the world,” producing everything from textiles to electronics, enabled it to plug into global supply chains, and it became a major player in international trade. Consequently, China now has strong influence in the world economy, sets trade agendas, and affects the state of the global marketplace (Liu, & Zhao, 2023).

In addition to China's emergence as an economic superpower, its modernization is marked by efforts to establish itself as a leader in technology. Under Xi Jinping, the Chinese government has prioritized high-tech sectors such as artificial intelligence, robotics, and renewable energy. Initiatives like "Made in China 2025" exemplify China's ambition to attain global leadership in advanced manufacturing and technological innovation, therefore ensuring its long-term competitiveness in the international market. That focus on technology is not only about trying to spur growth at home it is also an attempt to grow China's influence in sectors like telecommunications, where companies like Huawei have become globally dominant (Li, et al., 2022).

In addition, China's economic ascent has paralleled its rising influence around the world. Xi Jinping's China has embarked on the Belt and Road Project, a worldwide infrastructure initiative to bolster trade routes spanning from China to and throughout Europe, Asia and Africa. China has used these investments to broaden both its political and economic reach, affirming its role as a top dog on the world economic scene. This has enabled China to use its economic clout to forge strategic partnerships and string out a web of countries reliant on Chinese investment and loans (Liu, 2022).

China's military buildup has also been fueled by economic modernization. Over time and as its economy has flourished, China's defense budget has also been expanding, funding advances in military technology and capabilities. China's military inflicts growing strength together with its economic weight — has made it a regional and global power alongside a reluctant political actor in the Asia-Pacific. Its economic ascent has not only transformed its domestic landscape, but has allowed China to flex its muscles and vie with other world powers, most notably the United States (Wu, 2023).

Lastly, the economic success of China's modernization has also helped in keeping the domestic regime relatively stable. The (CPC) has long justified its one-party rule on the promise of economic development and improved lives, using the two to shore up its grip on power. An economic surge has elevated hundreds of millions

from poverty, fostering a burgeoning middle class and enhancing the standard of life for many additional Chinese individuals. The economic performance legitimises the governing party by providing a tangible foundation for public support of political authority, notwithstanding the absence of political freedom or multi-party competition (Huang et al., 2022).

Let me conclude by saying that China's economic modernization is the engine of its global rise. The success of those reform policies is best represented by the country's evolution under Deng Xiaoping and his successors from an isolated, agrarian economy under Mao to a dynamic, global economic powerhouse. Economic modernization has lifted not only the fortunes of China to the status of global economic juggernaut but also the international order, adding China to the ranks of the most consequential players in both economics and geopolitics. Underlying much of this transformation was the role of economic modernization, which continues to inform China's rise in the 21st century (Li, et al., 2023).

2.1.1 Relevance of Xi Jinping Thought in the Context of Economic Modernization

Xi Jinping Thought, officially known as the thought of Xi Jinping on Communism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, embodies the political ideology and policy positions that China's President and Communist Party leader has advocated since assuming leadership of the party in 2012. Xi Jinping Thought is rooted in Marxism-Leninism, Mao Zedong Thought, Deng Xiaoping Theory, and what each of these concepts Represents. It underscores the governing authority of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) in China, promoting national rejuvenation, the leftist character of socialist society, modernization, and reforms to the state legislature (Fang, et al., 2022).

At the core of his thought is a dream - the "Chinese Dream," of which the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation is a preeminent part. This not only means raising China's economic position higher but also strengthening its global political and cultural influence. Xi's vision for how China should be governed, how it should

develop its economy, and the role the state should play in steering that growth have changed China's path of modernization and established the Chinese Communist Party as the force that will get the country there(Jin, et al., 2021).

Xi's economic policies can be interpreted in the light of several main strands of his thought: high-quality development, technological innovation, state capitalism, sustainability, and the dual circulation strategy. These tenets are intended to help China become an economic and technological superpower, and also to tackle tensions of inequality, environmental excess and regional inequality (Li, et al., 2021).

China has had a pronounced recalibration of economic priorities under Xi. Where past leaders stressed growth at all costs and development through forced industrialization and exports, Xi has favored a more balanced and middle-ground approach to economic development. His government has worked to cut China's reliance on outside markets, drive domestic consumption and innovation-driven growth. This shift is symbolized by the term "high-quality development," which is about more than sheer economic output; it is also about the standards and sustainability of growth. This includes investing in green technology, minimizing environmental degradation, and guaranteeing that China's economic growth will be shared by all levels of society (Fang, et al., 2022).

Xi Jinping Thought assigns a crucial role to state-owned enterprises (SOEs) and emphasizes the state's increased involvement in steering economic growth. Although China has adopted many elements of market capitalism, Mr. Xi's policies advocate for a predominant role of the state in orchestrating key businesses and sectors. It is at odds with the market-oriented models pursued by past leaders like Deng Xiaoping, who drove the opening of the economy and the country's integration into global markets.

And Xi's economic philosophy goes beyond China's own perimeters. China under Xi Jinping, among others, has been trying to extend its international economic reach, most notably via projects like the BRI, through which it is building infrastructure and increasing economic links between China and other parts of Asia, Africa, and Europe.

Through these moves, Xi has set his eyes to make China a new anchor of the world development, as well as to influence the global economic rule-making, exercise more influence on the international stage (Fang, et al., 2022).

2.1.2 Objective of the Literature Review: To Explore How Xi Jinping Thought has Influenced China's Economic Modernization Strategies

The aim of such a literature review is to critically analyze the manner in which Xi Jinping Thought for China's economic modernization has set the stage. There has been a marked change in the domestic economic policy and the focus of China's international economic relations since Xi came to power. Knowing how Xi Jinping Thought fits into these changes is crucial in getting a sense of the wider trajectory of China's modern economy (Cheng, et al., 2021).

One of the most important issues to study is how Xi Jinping Thought impact on the choice of which economic policies to promote and which to stop. It includes a look at how Xi's support for "high-quality development" has changed China's economic model, moving away from one that has been based on heavy industry and low-cost manufacturing to emphasize innovation, digital technology and green growth. The strategic shift has profound implications for the Chinese economy, in sustainability, job creation, and new sectors (Cheng, et al., 2021).

The literature review will also examine the practice implications of Xi Jinping's blueprint for China's economy, including the role of the state and SOEs. Xi's conviction of the primacy of the CCP and SOEs has led to a reassertion of state control in industries such as energy, finance, and telecommunications, while market forces still remain significant in China's economy. The literature will inquire into how these policies are reconfiguring China's economic landscape, give special attention to state-market relations, innovation, and the private capital (Cheng, et al., 2021).

Another will be Xi's "dual circulation" strategy, designed to ensure self-sufficiency and growth within the domestic economy, even as China remains increasingly integrated in the global economy. The strategy is one of less outward focus on economics as a means of lessening China's reliance on external markets and

technology, especially amid increasing geopolitical tensions and trade conflicts with the United States and other Western countries. The assessment will examine the extent to which this approach is shaping China's economic modernization, especially in technology, supply chains and innovation(Cheng, et al., 2021).

Moreover, Xi Jinping Thought has profound implications for China's more general economic goals in the world. The BRI is a leading example of how Xi's economic vision is not confined to within China's borders, but plays a role in extending its presence and influence to countries around the world, particularly in the developing world. The book will investigate how the BRI aligns within Xi Jinping's economic modernization project and affected China's relationships with partner countries, global trade corridors and international economic governance.

And finally, the literature review will examine the shortcomings and problems that Xi Jinping Thought has encountered in the process of implementing China's economic modernization strategy. Xi's vision has won broad backing in China, but it has come under criticism, including from those who say that it will result in more economic inefficiency, will limit room for private entrepreneurship and will widen up social disparities. Such criticisms will be the focus of this review to see what implications they may have for the future direction of China's economic policies. 5. Concluding Remarks According to the above discourse, this review article attempts to perform a systematic survey of the connection between Xi Jinping Thought and the current Economic Modernization of China. Through a critical review of the literature, the review will illustrate how Xi's thoughts have shaped domestic and global economic policies in China, as well as the implications of the thought for the future trajectory of China's economy and its international position (Chang, 2022).

2.2 Theoretical Foundations of Economic Modernization

2.2.1 Economic Modernization Theories

Walt Rostow's economic development theory, termed "The Stages of Economic Growth," posits that all civilizations undergo a linear, five-stage evolution from traditional economies to contemporary, industrialized ones. The stages are: (1)

Traditional society, defined by subsistence agriculture and minimal productivity; (2) Preconditions for take-off, wherein fundamental institutional and infrastructural modifications establish the groundwork for growth; (3) Take-off, distinguished by accelerated industrial expansion and technological advancement; (4) Drive to maturity, during which industries diversify and economies attain greater sophistication; and (5) Age of high mass consumption, in which the economy transitions from production to consumer-oriented growth. According to Rostow, all societies must go through these stages in a particular sequence to achieve modern economic growth. His model has been criticized for its Eurocentric perspective, assuming that all countries must follow the same path to industrialization, as seen in Western countries. When applied to China, the theory seems inadequate, given China's unique, state-directed path to development that blends socialism with elements of capitalism (Chang, 2022).

2.2.2 Max Weber's Theory of Rationalization and Capitalism

The theory of Max Weber stresses those cultural and social elements in addition to economic factors in the modern capitalism. Weber was of the view that the development of capitalism in Western Europe was facilitated by the Protestant work ethic that advocated values, such as hard work, rationalism and efficiency. He argued that these ideological attitudes created conditions favorable to capitalism and industrialization. For Weber, economic development was not primarily a matter of material forces of production, such as technology and capital, he was concerned with the moral and cultural values which foster the development of 'social institutions. Weber's theory of rationalization, that emphasizes the growing orderliness and efficiency of economic behavior, gives another tool for understanding modernization. Weber's theory in relation to the role culture plays in the evolution of capitalist economies, however, has been criticized for being overly Europe-focused and failing to make room for alternative paths to modernization, such as China's model of state-led development. China's ascendancy is not a product of the Protestant work ethic, but rather a hybrid of Confucian ideals, political stability under the Chinese Communist Party, and massive state intervention in the economy.

Both Rostow's and Weber's theories provided an analytical base for thinking about modernization in the western context, but their relevance to the non-western nation states, such as China, has been a contentious issue. China's development logic, characterized by extreme state dominance and specific cultural background, does not fit the stage and cultural value system that is suggested by these classical theorists easily. Rather, China's modernization represents a distinctive mode of modernization that combines state intervention with market mechanisms and with industrial policies of strategic concern (Pan, 2022).

2.2.3 The Role of Political Ideology in Economic Development

Political ideology is an important factor in economic development, determining the ends, means, and strategies that governments employ to promote growth. Political Ideologies are series of belief systems that informs and formulates government and how the economy is managed and thus each ideology is inherently economic. Theoretical perspectives on the nexus of political ideology and economic development typically stress the role of leadership, state capacity and policy direction in promoting national development. Different political thoughts, capitalism, socialism, and mixed economies, have presented different approaches to economic development each structuring the role of the state, markets, and people in their own way (Pan, 2022).

2.2.4 Capitalism and Economic Development:

Capitalist theories support market-led development in which production, distribution and resource allocation are determined by supply and demand. Private enterprise, competition, and minimal state intervention are commonly viewed as the pillars of economic progress in capitalist economies. Capitalistic ideological stances lead to assertions on rights of existence, property and markets as the main elements of economic advancement. Adam Smith, one of the best-known classical economists, postulated that the "invisible hand" of the market, without government intervention, automatically allocates resources to their most efficient use, thereby promoting innovation and the accumulation of wealth, which in turn benefits society as a whole.

The capitalist perspective focuses on entrepreneurialism, technological advancements and international commerce as key catalysts to economic development (Dai, 2023). But the capitalist door is not entirely opened, for capitalist modes of production are equally criticized for inequality, labor exploitation and environmental destruction when the state refuses to intervene to regulate markets. Leadership in capitalist systems is frequently one of setting and maintaining an atmosphere in which free enterprise takes place rather than the hands-on managing of an economy (Dai, 2023).

2.2.5 Socialism and State-Led Development:

Socialist ideas, on the other hand, focus on the state's involvement in the control and guidance of economic life. Socialist political philosophies assert that the government should control major industries and the allocation of resources to guarantee fair distribution of money and resources among the people as well as their overall welfare. [Click here to read the full article.](#) This is because leaders who embrace socialist ideas typically introduce central planning, in which the state takes ownership of the most important parts of the economy, such as health care, education and industry, purportedly to spread prosperity and equality. This is similar to Karl Marx's theory of historical materialism, which argues that economic systems move through levels of development and that a change of the economic system from capitalism to socialism (and eventually communism) is the only way to remove class-based formations of power in society and create fair social order (Dai, 2023).

In reality, socialist economies frequently have extensive state intervention and large public sectors, with considerable control over production. Nations like the Soviet Union, Cuba, and North Korea have adopted different types of socialism, and some (notably the Soviet Union) with questionable economic success. On the other hand, social policies such as universal health care, education and social safety nets can. But central planning can also result in inefficiency, shortage, and a lack of innovation (Dai, 2023).

2.2.6 Mixed Economies and Developmental States:

Mixed economies combine features of capitalism and socialism, maintaining aspects of private enterprise, and even a profit motive, while allowing room for some state redistribution and steering in key areas. This kind of hybrid model is supposed to take advantage of the efficiency and innovation of free markets and equity and welfare of state control. The theory of the developmental state, most commonly associated with East Asian economies (such as Japan, South Korea or Taiwan), is based on the importance of the state in guiding the process of industrialization and long-term economic growth. Leaders in developmental states are believed to determine the best course of economic development through such policies as supporting strategic industries, fostering technological innovation and export-and import-restricted growth, while preserving some market competition and private sector development. Political elites in developmental states value national economic objectives over individual liberties, frequently relying on top Down decision-making to allocate resources to particular sectors. The success of the East Asian developmental model provides evidence that sound leadership, clear policy trajectory and long-term strategic planning can facilitate rapid industrialization and economic modernization, even in the absence of full market liberalization (Korkmaz, & Korkmaz, 2017).

2.2.7 Authoritarianism, Leadership, and Economic Development:

Some types of authoritarian politics can bring about fast economic growth. Radical monist theories such as Russian serf-advocating Slavophile-ism also describe how when states gain power, they try to recreate a new subservient social stratum (an aristocracy) that is directly linked to the politic of the state. Thomas Piketty and other economists have discussed how authoritarian governments, particularly in the 20th century, have managed to implement major economic transformations often at the cost of individual freedoms and political rights. Xi Jinping's leadership of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) exemplifies a model of centralized economic governance characterized by significant state intervention in directing economic reform. Under Xi, China has been advocating for high-quality development and national self-sufficiency, emphasizing technological advancements, the expansion of state-owned

companies (SOEs), and infrastructural initiatives. The authoritarian nature of the system allows the government to implement ambitious economic ideas but critics believe this can also breed inefficiency, corruption and a lack of democratic accountability (Shao, et al., 2024).

Despite such disparities, many praise China's autocratic model for securing political stability over long periods, which has facilitated economic development. The political control has helped China to negotiate its rapid transformation from an agrarian society to an industrial power, especially under the command of top leaders like Deng Xiaoping and Xi Jinping (Shao, et al., 2024).

2.2.8 Neoliberalism and Economic Development:

Neoliberalism is a way of thinking that prioritizes the decreasing of the role of the government in the economy and promotes privatization, deregulation, and free market capitalism. Many countries have adopted neoliberal policies, particularly since the 1980s, in an attempt to drive economic growth, control inflation, and improve global competitiveness. Leaders such as Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan adopted neoliberal economic policies, including the privatization of state-controlled companies, reduced taxation and removal of trade barriers.

Neoliberalism has been acclaimed for its efficiency, promotion of economic entrepreneurship, and rapid economic growth, while critics argue that it has increased income inequality, social welfare reductions, and undermined national sovereignty by ceding economic control to the private sector and multinational corporations. Neoliberalism has largely contributed to political instability and social unrest in many regions when vulnerable sectors of societies are not given attention, but it also suggests that the economic policies of free market proponents (which were carried out in these countries and proposed to others) did not consider the specific political context and were detrimental to society as a whole. Thus, the political ideology is crucial in influencing the policy mix adopted by the government toward development. Free-market capitalism, state-driven socialism, mixed economies and lastly, neoliberalism, political ideologies help in building a premise under which leaders

create policies that affect the growth, distribution of wealth and social welfare of a country. In some parts of the world, such as in China, there are also more evolved political ideologies where the leadership's vision of economic modernization reflects a cocktail of socialist values, state capitalism and a focus on national rejuvenation. The place of political ideology within economic development may offer clues to how countries move through the webs of modernization, industrialization, and global economic integration (Shao, et al., 2024).

2.3 Xi Jinping Thought and Economic Policy

2.3.1 Key Tenets of Xi Jinping Thought

Xi Jinping Thought, officially designated as the thought of Xi Jinping on Communism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, serves as the conceptual framework directing China's political, economic, and social actions under Xi Jinping's governance. This ideology has become fundamental to China's government, offering an all-encompassing vision that encompasses both domestic policies and foreign aspirations. A fundamental part of Xi Jinping Vision is its focus on national rejuvenation, macroeconomic modernization, and the enhancement of the Communist Party's influence in all facets of administration. It expands upon earlier ideologies, notably Marxism-Leninism, Mao Zedong, and Deng Xiaoping, while including new ideas aimed at addressing the issues of modern China (Wang, & Wang, 2024).

A central tenet of Xi Jinping Thought is the notion of the "Chinese Dream." The Chinese Dream embodies Xi's aspiration for the revitalization of the Chinese nation, emphasizing the restoration of China's historical prominence and affluence after centuries of adversity. It signifies both national revitalization and the desire for an improved existence for the Chinese populace. The notion underscores the significance of economic affluence, social cohesion, and national pride. Xi has associated the Chinese Dream with the overarching objective of establishing a modern socialist society that harmonizes China's rich cultural legacy with its expanding global influence. The Chinese Dream is seen as a communal aspiration, whereby the prosperity of the country and its citizens is interconnected, with the Communist

Party's leadership being pivotal in actualizing this goal. A fundamental aspect of Xi Jinping Thought is "Socialism with Chinese Characteristics," a notion that has developed since the era of Deng Xiaoping. This concept exemplifies the distinctive trajectory China has pursued in integrating communist ideals (Wang & Wang, 2024).

Xi Jinping has further refined this concept, emphasizing that while market forces are crucial for growth, the Communist Party must maintain control over key sectors of the economy to ensure that development is aligned with national interests and the long-term goals of the state. The blend of market-oriented reforms and strong state control has allowed China to achieve rapid economic growth while maintaining political stability, which is seen as essential for the success of the socialist system in the Chinese context. This model also emphasizes the importance of self-reliance in critical industries such as technology, energy, and defense. A third critical aspect of Xi Jinping Thought is the "Community of Common Destiny." This concept reflects Xi's vision for a new global order in which China plays a central role in shaping international relations and promoting global peace and prosperity. The idea emphasizes that all nations are interconnected and that global issues, such as climate change, economic inequality, and peace, should be addressed through cooperation and mutual respect. Xi envisions a world where China leads in fostering multilateral cooperation and creating a more inclusive and just global system. This concept is closely tied to China's foreign policy initiatives, particularly the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which aims to enhance infrastructure, trade, and investment across Asia, Africa, and Europe, thereby establishing China as a key player in global economic governance (Wang, & Wang, 2024).

2.3.2 Emphasis on National Rejuvenation, the Belt and Road Initiative, and the Role of State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs)

Xi Jinping's economic policies are deeply rooted in the idea of national rejuvenation. This is a crucial topic in his vision for China's future. National rejuvenation entails reinstating China to its appropriate status as a global power after a protracted history of foreign subjugation and domestic strife. The focus is on securing China's economic, political, and cultural dominance in the contemporary global

landscape. For Xi, this revitalization encompasses not just economic advancement but also the restoration of China's historical prominence on the global arena. This strategy entails transitioning China from a manufacturing-centric economy to one propelled by innovation, advanced industries, and high-quality development. National rejuvenation necessitates the rectification of internal inequities, equitable distribution of growth advantages, and the promotion of sustainable development. This long-term vision has been a driving force behind China's economic modernization strategies under Xi's leadership (Wang, & Wang, 2024).

The Belt and Road effort (BRI) is a pivotal effort supporting national rejuvenation, designed to enhance global connections via infrastructure development, commerce, and investment. Initiated in 2013, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has been essential to Xi Jinping's strategy for expanding China's economic dominance and fostering a "Community of Common Destiny." The plan emphasizes the development of infrastructure, including roads, trains, ports, and energy pipelines across Asia, Africa, and Europe. The BRI aims to enhance economic collaboration and growth, establish new trade channels, and fortify China's relationships with partner nations. The effort serves as a strategic man oeuvre for China to diminish its reliance on foreign markets and to establish itself as a worldwide leader in economic and geopolitical affairs. It emphasizes Xi's conviction that China ought to have an active role in influencing the global economy, promoting both bilateral and multilateral collaboration to provide new avenues for economic expansion.

State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) continue to play a crucial role in Xi Jinping's economic policy. SOEs are seen as vital instruments in achieving the country's economic objectives, particularly in sectors that are deemed strategically important to national security and economic stability, such as energy, telecommunications, and defense. Xi has emphasized that SOEs should not only pursue profitability but also serve broader national goals, such as technological advancement, job creation, and maintaining economic stability. Under Xi's leadership, SOEs have been restructured to improve efficiency and competitiveness, but they still remain firmly under the control of the Communist Party. The government continues to ensure that SOEs are

aligned with national economic and political goals, reinforcing the central role of the state in managing key sectors of the economy. This is in line with Xi's vision of maintaining a socialist market economy, where the state directs the economy's strategic development while allowing market forces to operate in other areas. In summary, Xi Jinping Thought constitutes an extensive framework that informs China's economic policies and plans, emphasizing national revitalization, global leadership, and the state's role in directing economic development. The notions of the Chinese Dream, Socialist thought with Chinese Character traits, and the Community of Common Destiny embody Xi's aspiration for a rich, contemporary China that occupies a pivotal position in the global economy. Initiatives such as the Belt and Road Initiative and the ongoing significance of State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) illustrate Xi's economic strategy, which seeks to fortify China's internal economy while enhancing its global clout. This mindset signifies a new phase in economic policy, characterized by a synthesis of socialist ideals, market reforms, and deliberate state involvement (Wang & Wang, 2024).

2.3.3 Xi's Economic Philosophy and Policy Priorities

The economic philosophy of Xi Jinping marks a departure from China's economic development that has, for decades, been described as high-speed, expansion-focused growth, to that of high-quality growth. This is at the heart of a larger trend under Xi, speaking to his wider vision for China's future that prioritises concepts such as sustainability, technological innovation and self sufficiency in critical areas. Under Xi, economic priorities have shifted to quality, efficiency and the environment, in a strategic change from the era of pell-mell industrialization and simply piling on GDP.

2.3.4 Focus on High-Quality Development

The pivot to high-quality development is a key part of Xi Jinping's economic agenda. High-quality development is about increasing the quality and sustainability of China's economy, not just the pace of growth. This direction emphasizes innovation, ecological consciousness, and the significance of developing a more consumer-

oriented economy. Xi stresses that China's economic future does not lie with low-cost manufacturing or heavy industry, but in building an economy that can produce high-value products and services. High-quality development involves upgrading the global value chain, technological capabilities, and living standards for all the people (Jiang, et al., 2024).

The focus on high-quality development also reflects a wider push in China to address economic inequality, advance green technologies and better the lives of its population. Xi's policies aim to solve problems that have arisen from its three decades of double-digit growth, such as air pollution, an over-dependence on investment-led growth and the imbalance between urban and rural development. Through emphasis on the quality, Xi intends to shift China's economy to not only a bigger one, but also a more sustainable, efficient and beneficial to public good (Wang, & Wang, 2024).

2.3.5 Technological Innovation

At the center of Xi's economic philosophy is technological innovation. Zhong says that Xi knows that for China to sustain its banking-breaking economic streak into the future, it must be able to dominate in certain technologies — and the Chinese president has made technological innovation a national quest. Xis government has promoted the creation of home-grown technology under the Made in China 2025 initiative, including in areas such as artificial intelligence, robotics, 5G telecommunications, quantum computing and renewable energy. This emphasis on innovation comes as China tries to loosen its reliance on foreign technology, a matter many consider critical, especially in strategic areas like semiconductors, telecommunications and aerospace (Jiang, et al., 2024).

Xi's leadership has put great emphasis on building indigenous technological capability to enable China to compete in the world in high-technology industries. The state has made substantial investments in research and development, and pursued policy to support innovation such as stimulating investment on science and technology and the promotion of IPR. The emphasis on technological self-reliance is part of a larger push to strengthen China's ability to compete globally, a push that has gained

urgency as trade friction with the United States and other advanced economies have grown.

2.3.6 Green Growth and Sustainability

Green growth, another cornerstone of Xi's economic priorities, showcases China's increasing dedication to the promotion of environmental sustainability and meeting the challenges of climate change. Xi has stressed that China must move from a heavily polluting model of industry to a green one. He has led the way in China on cutting carbon emissions, increasing energy efficiency and adopting clean technologies. Top on the list for this regard is China's direction to reach carbon neutrality by 2060, which is a subset objective within its agenda to restructure its economy into a more environmentally sustainable one.

Green growth is a necessity both for ecological and financial reasons. China has been encouraged to take the leadership as the world's new pioneer in decarbonization with the growth of renewable technology, electric vehicles and energy-efficient industries. Xi's government has also poured significant resources into renewable energy sources, including wind, solar and hydroelectric power. The investments are also likely to generate new industries, spur job growth and wean China off its dependence on fossil fuels, particularly coal, a big source of China's pollution (Jiang, et al., 2024).

2.3.7 The Dual Circulation Strategy

Among Xi's recent projects is the "Dual Circulation" policy, which emphasizes developing China's domestic economic resources in conjunction with operating within the global economy. The approach marks a departure from excessive dependence on overseas markets and global supply chains, and puts greater emphasis on domestic demand and local innovation as the main growth engine for China's future economy. The first fragile cycle relates to the domestic economy, in the form of domestic market creation, and in domestic manufacturing and service linkages. The second is what is called the external circulation, which describes China

linking to the international economy, both international trade and the international market (Jiang, et al., 2024).

The Dual Circulation strategy is Xi's answer to a series of economic and geopolitical challenges, from the trade war with the United States to the reordering of global supply chains to the global rise of protectionism. China wants to shield itself from external shocks, like global recessions and trade disruptions, by shifting its focus to domestic consumption and innovation. The idea is to develop a self-reinforcing economic model that relies less on exports and foreign markets, while still participating in the global economy in a manner conducive to China's long-term development. It also aligns with Xi's greater project of promoting China's technological self-sufficiency and reducing its reliance on foreign countries for vital goods and services (Jiang, et al., 2024).

2.3.8 The Shift from High-Speed Growth to Sustainable, High-Quality Growth

One of the most important features personified in XI Jinping's economy policy is the change from high-speed growth to high quality, sustainable growth. Under past leaderships, China's economic plan aimed to sustain rapid double-digit growth by pouring money into infrastructure, manufacturing and export-oriented sectors. Although such a model allowed China to rise to rank as the world's second-largest economy, it also generated imbalances such as environmental destruction, overcapacity in some industries and dependence on debt-fueled growth (Zhao, & Li, 2024).

The presidency of Xi Jinping embodies a deliberate break with the hypergrowth at any cost approach. I would argue that the alternative is to work towards a more sustainable and balanced economy that values long-term stability over quick money. The transition must also extend beyond modernizing China's industrial structure to include solving social issues such as income disparity, an aging population and regional unbalanced development. By refocusing on high-quality development, China seeks to make growth not just strong but also inclusive and sustainable. High-

quality growth is not only about economic output, but also about productivity, innovation and people's well-being (Zhao, & Li, 2024).

This trend is accentuated in Xi's push to turn China into a consumer society. Through boosting domestic consumption, boosting wages and improving welfare, Xi wants to re-orient China's economy away from its dependence on export-led growth and wallets outside of China toward dependence more on its people inside China. This transition is deemed necessary for the country's progress toward a more mature and stable economic model that can ensure long-term prosperity, while at the same time mitigating the environmental impact of development and addressing social imbalances. Xi Jinping's economic philosophy signifies a substantial shift in China's development paradigm, transitioning from a focus on rapid expansion to an emphasis on high-quality development, technical innovation, sustainable growth, and Dual Circulation. These aims align with Xi's comprehensive vision for China's future as a modern, self-sufficient global power founded on superior development. High-quality development entails a comprehensive effort to enhance industrial structure, stimulate demand, mitigate ecological harm, and use technological advancements to position China as a leader in the global economy. Through these measures, Xi aims to establish an economic model that is resilient, sustainable, and capable of serving the Chinese populace in the 21st century (Huang, et al., 2024).

2.4 Historical and Political Context of Economic Modernization Under Xi

2.4.1 Economic Modernization under Previous Leaders

The development of the Chinese economy from the budding of socialism through modernization has been influenced by the characters of several leaders, all of whom contributed in their own way to the rise of the country. Modern China's economic reforms are often attributed to Deng Xiaoping. Taking office in the late 1970s, Deng redirected China from the ultra-strict, state-directed economy of the Mao era by unleashing a series of profit-oriented reforms. Such changes were consolidated in his "Reform and Opening-Up" policies of 1978, which aimed to reconcile socialism with market economics. Among Deng's most important reforms was the

Household Responsibility System, which further decentralized agriculture and enabled individual farmers to direct and profit from their land. He also established the Special Economic Zones (SEZ), such as Shenzhen, which allowed market forces to function with less political obstacle, promoting foreign investment and stimulating the establishment of manufacturing and trade. Deng's policies were the start of China's incorporation into the world economy, paving the way for its meteoric economic ascent (Huang, et al., 2024).

Jiang Zemin, who came to power in the early 1990s, pursued Deng's reforms while guiding China further into the global economy. China surged under Jiang, including in the years following China's entry into the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 2001. His administration also oversaw additional liberalization of China's economy through private-sector development and foreign trade. Private entrepreneurship was actively promoted during his rule and the private sector grew more prominent. In the 1990s began waves of urbanization far greater than any China had seen before, which Jiang directly contributed to with his building campaigns, during which China modernized its cities, and expanded its industrial base. On Jiang's watch, China became increasingly intertwined with global supply chains, solidifying its status as the "factory of the world" and laying the tracks for China's rise as a global economic giant.

When Jiang was replaced by Hu Jintao in the early 2000s, the emphasis was on building a more balanced and harmonious society. Hu focused his policies on income inequality and regional disparities, with an eye to maintaining social stability. He brought in the "Harmonious Society" to engineer a more balanced development, with rewards for everyone. This meant emphasizing green development, the reduction of pollution and more equitable distribution of the benefits of China's economic growth through the country. Hu also issued the Scientific Development Concept, which meant to maintain a development that sustainable, have quality advancement, and rise the science and technology position of the People's Republic of China. Hu's rule represented a departure from the single-minded pursuit of high-speed growth toward a

focus on social welfare, environmental protection and long-term economic stability (Huang, et al., 2024).

Xi Jinping and his associates, who came to power in 2012, have continued many of the policies of their predecessors but have also charted new directions in economic policy. With Xi in charge, China has made a switch from pursuing high-speed growth to high-quality development, attaching more importance to the quality of growth, which is driven more by innovation and sustainability rather than by the sheer incline of growth curves. Xi's economic philosophy is more about an emphasis on technological innovation and self-reliance. His administration has heavily emphasized the need for technology independence in fields like semiconductors, telecommunications and artificial intelligence, hoping to wean China off foreign technology. This new strategic direction has been distilled into the Made in China 2025 plan seeking to upgrade Chinese capabilities in important high-tech sectors.

Xi Jinping has also reaffirmed the state's domination over parts of the economy. Unlike his predecessors who had gradually let market forces take the lead in the economy, Xi has instead stressed the continued importance of massive State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) in guiding the direction of 'China Inc'. He has also steered these SOEs to be consistent with broader national policy objectives, including technology implementation and national security. This is a retreat toward a more state-led form of governance away from the more market-oriented strategies of Jiang and Hu that gave more space to the private sector.

Xi Jinping's strategy also involves the implementation of the so-called Dual Circulation Strategy, which prioritizes the development of the domestic market in China, while maintaining contact with the world outside. The policy was developed amid mounting geopolitical tensions and economic uncertainties and is aimed at reducing China's dependence on foreign markets and increasing domestic consumption and technological innovation. The Dual Circulation Strategy is a move in the direction of a more self-reliant and potentially resilient Chinese economy, to make sure that China is not overly dependent on global trade and external markets,

particularly as the global ground beneath us is shifting. In summary, although Deng Xiaoping, Jiang Zemin, and Hu Jintao all made their respective contributions to China's economic modernization, Xi Jinping has ushered in a new phase: China is now shifting from quantitative to quality-based growth, focused on innovation, technology, and a stronger role for the state in directing economic development. Xi's stress on self-reliance and green development, and his concept of Dual Circulation Strategy, truly distinguish his strategy from the high-speed growth model of his predecessors and focus on prioritising long term stability, technological development, and economic resilience amid a fast-evolving global context (Huang, et al., 2024).

2.4.2 Xi Jinping's Political Consolidation and its Economic Implications

Xi Jinping has pursued a major political consolidation since he became head of state in 2012, with profound implications for the economic direction of China. His rule has been defined by the concentration of political power, more strict control over core institutional and economic sectors, stronger oversight of the Communist Party (CCP) machinery, and a shift away from Deng's program of cautious reformation. This political centralization has also been consequential for China's programs of economic reform, affecting the tempo and orientation of economic policy and development. Xi's tight control has resulted in some economic victories, but has also sparked fears that there will be inefficiencies and creative stagnation from further concentration of power in the form of the leader (Sun, et al., 2024).

2.4.3 The Centralization of Power under Xi Jinping

Xi Jinping's accession was also a moment at which the benefits of collective leadership in the Communist Party were giving way to sclerosis among its ranks. The era prior to Xi was a somewhat decentralized system, characterized by more collective leadership and power divided among factions of the Party. However, Xi swiftly consolidated his authority, rapidly becoming the most dominant Chinese leader before Mao Zedong. He has consolidated unprecedented authority by taking the positions of President of the People's Republic of China, the Chief of Staff of the Communist

Party, and Chairwoman of the Central Military Commission thus centralizing control over the party, the state, and the armed force (Li, et al., 2024).

One of Xi's key steps to strengthen his political authority was the anti-corruption campaign, which began just after he came into power. The campaign in name was to fight against corruption in Party, but its real purpose was to clear away political opponents for Xi for his power in Party. Tens of thousands of officials were purged, including high-level party members, and the anti-corruption campaign was largely viewed as a means to help consolidate Xi's iron grip on power. Undercutting internal opposition to his rule and enhancing the ideological legitimacy of Xi's leadership by casting him as a reformer who waged a war on corruption, the crackdown also served to enhance the ideological legitimacy of Xi's leadership as a reformer, indeed as a fighter of corruption (Li, et al., 2024).

Xi also eliminated term limits for the presidency in 2018, which had been a key institutional constraint on his authority. This effectively enabled him to stay in power forever, and also cemented his political dominance, placing him at the helm of a unified China. His ideological overtures, in particular the integration of Xi Jinping Thought into the CCP's constitution, further entrenched his hold on power and the notion that his vision for China is core to the Party's purpose.

2.4.4 Impact on Economic Reforms

Xi Jinping's power and ambition work, both directly and indirectly, on China's economic policy and reform. Download The idea that power is being overly centralized around Xi and his somewhat opaque concept of governing by committee, is nothing new to China-watchers and is no great surprise. On the one hand, the centralization of power in one man has allowed Xi to enact major reforms and policy shifts more decisively, with less internal resistance. The strong political mandate he has enjoyed has facilitated less consultative and consensual style of decision-making which often constrains the speed of implementation of economic policies (Li, et al., 2024).

But the concentration of power also has consequences for market-oriented reforms advocated by leaders before him, including Deng Xiaoping. Whereas Deng's reforms sought gradual economic liberalization, Xi has promoted a more restrained stance on market liberalization, accentuating the need for continued state control of critical industries. Xi has emphasised the role of State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) in spurring economic growth and, while private entrepreneurship is still valued, the state has reasserted its position in areas such as finance, energy and technology. China has witnessed the return of state capitalism under Xi, with SOEs at the core of China's economic strategy.

Xi has also stressed that the government should take a more direct hand in the economy, especially in strategic industries such as technology, telecommunications and defense. This has implications for how China envisages its economic modernization, implying a break from the more liberal and market-oriented model of the past towards one that seeks to sustain greater state control of strategic resources. For example, Xi's government has been intensifying Made in China 2025, a policy intended to make China self-sufficient in important areas of technology. While it has the potential to promote technological innovation and lessen reliance on foreign technologies, it also mirrors more state-driven approaches compared with those of his predecessors, whose policies previously tended toward being more market-oriented.

But Xi's initiatives to demand more regulatory oversight in fields including technology and finance has resulted in tighter control over high-profile companies — ranging from a crackdown against some of the largest tech giants such as Alibaba and Tencent. Xi's government has also acted to remedy problems including data privacy, monopolistic behavior and the uncontrolled rise of the private sector, reflecting his larger belief that economic dynamism should not come at the price of social stability, or the party's control. Then, there's this extreme focus on policy and fiddling with the levers has affected not only domestic players, but those from abroad who view the Chinese market as getting increasingly erratic or interventionist.

2.4.5 Relationship Between Political Stability and Economic Modernization

Xi Jinping's political consolidation has been closely associated with China's economic modernization as political stability is considered a precondition for sustained economic development. Under Xi's control, the Chinese Communist Party has held an iron grip on both politics and economic, such that the country dodges most of the political instability that could threaten growth. This has been all the more important in an era of rapid change, at home and abroad, where political uncertainty had the potential to undermine economic confidence.

And Xi's concentration of power has provided a more consistent and coordinated economic strategy, as policies are adopted with more speed and decisiveness. This has been most noticeable in Xi's ambitious plans like the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), Made in China 2025, and the Dual Circulation Strategy, which are premised on top-down action across the various levels of government and economic sectors. The capacity to barrel ahead with these grand projects testifies to the political stability that Xi has forged during his reign.

Yet the relation between political stability and economic modernization in the Xi era is not complication-free. Such decentralization of the public health authority has enabled a more coordinated economic approach, but also presents risks. One danger of Xi's tight grip is that it could lead to economic distortions. Centralized decision-making can also result in excessive regulation, poor performance in SOEs, or stifling market-led innovations. Higher prioritization of state control, specific in key industries but should they stifle competition and dynamism of the private sector, could also slow down competition and GVN may pop up as a result.

Moreover, the rise in political interference has worried foreign investors and some local businesspeople. Graph When combined with Xi's emphasis on state ownership and control, the heavy regulatory hand, particularly in the tech sector, and the state's wish to further dominate industrial supply chains to make a less private China could also be a turn-off for private investors, who are uneasy with government meddling. This is especially the case for multinational operating in a less predictable and more government-driven environment. In sum, the political centering of Xi Jinping has brought good sides and bad faces to China's economic modernization. On the one hand, it has maintained the political stability required to carry off massive

reforms and grandiose projects, and despite this being deeply unpopular among opponents, never relaxed its preoccupation with growth. On the other, the concentration of power has led to fears that innovation is being stifled, amid concerns of excessive regulation in an economy that is ever-more state-controlled. Above all, the leadership of Xi tells us about the ambiguous relationship between political stability and economic modernization, where a strong centralized authority cuts both ways and the pursuit of China's long-term economic objectives is constantly in play.

2.5 Key Areas of China's Economic Modernization under Xi

2.5.1 Technological Innovation and Digital Economy

Under Xi Jinping, technical innovation has been seen as a crucial catalyst for China's economic modernization. Xi has underscored the significance of modern technology, including computational intelligence (AI), 5G, and renewable energy sources, to drive the nation's future economic expansion. The "Made in China 2025" project, introduced in 2015, is a fundamental component of Xi's economic plan aimed at establishing China as a worldwide leader in high-tech sectors. The project seeks to diminish China's dependence on foreign technology, concentrating on sectors such as semiconductors, aircraft, robots, and renewable energy vehicles, with the objective of attaining technical self-sufficiency. China's AI and 5G development has also been a priority under Xi. The government has heavily invested in building a national infrastructure for AI and 5G, which are expected to play a key role in improving industrial productivity, boosting innovation, and enhancing the digital economy. China's advancements in 5G technology are particularly notable, as the country has positioned itself as a global leader in 5G infrastructure, with companies like Huawei at the forefront. This push towards technological leadership is part of a broader vision to transition China's economy from a manufacturing base to a technology-driven, innovation-focused economy, capable of competing globally in the digital age.

Additionally, green technologies have gained prominence, as Xi has tied technological innovation to environmental sustainability. His vision for an "ecological civilization" includes integrating green development with China's economic strategies, emphasizing the growth of clean energy sectors, electric vehicles, and

sustainable urban development. These advancements align with China's broader goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2060, with technology playing a pivotal role in reducing emissions and creating a green, future-proof economy.

2.5.2 The Role of the State and Market

Xi Jinping's economic doctrine has called for a balance between state dominance and market forces. And where Deng Xiaoping promoted market-oriented reform and the emergence of private enterprise, Xi has prioritized the role of the state in steering economic modernization, especially in strategically key sectors. State-owned enterprises (SOEs) remain prime drivers of the economy under Xi. SOEs overwhelmingly control important sectors, such as energy, telecommunications, and finance, and are considered a tool of national policy. Xi has emphasized the need to build up SOEs so that they are able to compete abroad and that they are in line with national economic and security interests.

But Xi has also acknowledged that the private sector is crucial for driving economic growth and innovation. The "Chinese model" of capitalism differs in that it combines a market-based economy with extensive state intervention. Business is encouraged to grow and innovate, but government still maintains a heavy hand in controlling key parts of the economy. This is in contrast with the Western liberal market economy, which highly emphasizes private markets and competition. The Chinese model is predicated on a significant level of state ownership and state-directed capitalism, overseeing an economy where the state is heavily involved in directing, but not necessarily running, the economy — setting long-term development plan, controlling the commanding heights of the economy and regulating key industries but at the same time allowing entrepreneurs enough leeway to grow in less sensitive sectors. It led to a mixed economy in which a handful of strategic industries were roughly controlled and owned by the government, while the private sector is loosely guided, and bloomed by market forces in technology and retail, and manufactures and others.

2.5.3 Economic Reforms and Opening-Up

Xi Jinping has reaffirmed the reform and opening-up policy of Deng Xiaoping, though sometimes taking a more cautious course in some aspects. Under Xi, the country was liberalized more, but selectively and strategically, than in some previous periods of its economic development. The government has been further opening the country to more foreign investment – particularly in finance, automotive manufacturing and consumer products. But Xi has also promoted more clearly “tight control over the economy,” especially in politically sensitive areas such as technology, defense and telecommunications.

Xi’s pledge for openness can be linked to the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), a bid to improve global trade relations by funding new infrastructure in Asia, Africa and Eastern Europe. With the BRI, Xi has made China the world’s premier trade and investment superpower, expanded its footprint and advanced its economic interests. But this new opening-up policy also faces challenges, especially the escalation of trade war, especially with the US, that puts an end to the chances to grow for the Chinese economy. The trade war with the United States has underscored China’s vulnerabilities when it comes to reliance on foreign markets and technology, and led Mr. Xi to focus on economic self-reliance and technological autonomy in sectors like semiconductors and advanced manufacturing. The fruits of China’s opening-up have been readily apparent in expanding foreign trade, investment and markets, but the headwinds of global protectionism and trade friction are major obstacles in China’s journey to find its place in the world economy.

2.5.4 Environmental Sustainability and Green Development

“Xi Jinping’s been emphasizing so much about green ecology, green development as part of China’s economic modernization,” Mr. Shen said. Under his guidance, China has attempted to break the environmentally harmful development model and made great progress in greening the economy. The idea of an “ecological civilization” has been introduced by Xi and brings together environmental protection and economic development. This philosophy looks toward the day when economic growth and environmental health can be reconciled.

China's emphasis on green technology and sustainable development is reflected in its movement towards renewable energy, electric cars and energy-efficient infrastructure. The government has been encouraging measures to expand the use of solar, wind and hydropower, and China has grown into a global powerhouse in renewable energy production and investment. Xi's determination to achieve sound ecological development is also evident in his promise to make China carbon neutral by 2060. This ambitious promise is part of China's broader long-term economic vision of constructing a green economy, where technological innovation and environmental protection complement each other. In addition to tackling domestic environmental pressures, these "green" initiatives are also regarded as a means for China to achieve global competitiveness in emerging industries including green-technology and renewable energy.

2.5.5 Regional Economic Disparities and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)

China has experienced rapid economic growth but not without regional disparities. The coastal belts of China have prospered and parts of China have rapidly developed, driving much of the overall economic growth for the country, while the hinterland and rural regions have fallen behind in both, income levels and infrastructure and progress as well. Under Xi Jinping, that correcting for these regional disparities has been cast as a crucial plank of China's modernization strategy.

Xi's administration has pursued plans to encourage more equitable regional development, for instance by investing more in infrastructure in under-developed regions and creating new economic zones in the interior. One of Xi's signature initiatives, the BRI helps to close some of these regional differences by investing in the infrastructure and development of Chinese and overseas regions. The BRI is meant to weave a network of trade and investment pathways to promote economic growth and integration, in particular in more underdeveloped regions of China and in BRI countries.

Internationally, the BRI is viewed as a mechanism for China to expand its footprint and boost economic cooperation in Asia, Africa and Europe. Such an effort

holds far-reaching importance for China's modernization, as it will enable China to leverage its economic power to serve its strategic interests, both at home and abroad. The BRI has opened new openings for Chinese companies globally, added a new dimension to China's economic interconnections with the rest of the world and helped to develop new channels of trade and investment.

Xi Jinping is shaping his economic modernization agenda as a multi-dimensional one that includes technological innovation, dynamic interplay of state and markets forces, sustainable development, and regional economic reform. Through efforts such as the "Made in China 2025" program, the Belt and Road Initiative and a focus on green development, Xi is seeking to place China at the forefront of global technology and sustainable development. The mix of state-owned enterprises and the private sector under Xi's model produces a distinctive kind of what is commonly called state-directed capitalism, in which the government maintains a powerful hand in strategic industries but also allow market forces elsewhere. Despite the difficult times posed by trade tensions, global protectionism, and regional inequality, Xi's policies aim to ensure long-term economic growth in China by embracing challenges at home and abroad. These are the ideas Xi is using to propel China's modernization to a new stage, balancing economic power with social and environmental responsibility.

2.6 Challenges and Criticisms of Xi Jinping's Economic Modernization

For as much progress Zoom has made since Xi Jinping became China's top man, his brand of economic modernization has come with lots of internal and foreign troubles and a raft of autopsies for supposed wrongheadedness too. These challenges threaten to undermine the future viability of China's economic model and the criticisms of Xi's political and economic philosophy bring to the fore key questions about the sustainability and inclusivity of China's development.

2.6.1 Internal Challenges

The big worry for China, of course, under Xi Jinping is the slowing economy. China's economic growth has already slowed for years, from the days of 10 percent-plus annual growth to what by Chinese standards is a relatively modest average of 6 to

7 percent growth in recent years. Growth in the country's gross domestic product, which used to chug along at well over 10 percent a year, has slowed to much less but still impressive levels. This slowdown is due to a variety of alarming factors: the declines in the tail of investment-driven growth, the shift from manufacturing to services, both internal and external uncertainties. With China shifting towards a more sustainable modal of growth, it becomes ever more daunting for China to keep things in balance and at the same time achieve its objective of high-quality, instead of speedy, growth.

One of the most consequential internal challenges is China's aging population. China's birth rate has been sliding for decades, and over the last few years the share of the population that is elderly has increased, creating larger economic pressures on the country's labor force. China's aging: The country's working age population will face large challenges and shortages, especially in high-skilled areas, while propelling the demand for pensions, health care and social services. With more people living much longer lives than the previous generation government is struggling to find new ways of looking after the elderly while also making certain the economy continues to expand and remains competitive.

China is grappling with increasing corporate and local government debt, fueling concerns of a debt crisis. In recent years, China's growth model has depended heavily upon debt-fueled investment, especially in infrastructure and real estate. To invest trillions of dollars in mega-projects, which is off-budget, local governments funded giant infrastructure projects and most state-owned enterprises (SOEs) have borrowed a lot of money. With economic growth faltering, the dangers of this high level of indebtedness are becoming clear, with some of these investments delivering decreasing benefits. The real estate bubble is yet another manifestation of this issue; rampant borrowing in the real estate market has caused the cost of housing to soar, creating a greater gap between the haves and the have-nots and a prone economy.

While President Xi Jinping has placed technological innovation at the center of his plans, China's ability to innovate remains constrained in some crucial areas. Even

though it has made major leaps in technology and digital infrastructure, including autonomous vehicles and voice and facial recognition, China still relies on foreign technologies in some areas, like semiconductors and advanced machinery. The state has attempted to decrease this dependence, but the road to full self-sufficiency in core technology is a difficult one. In addition, government power has been centralized, and this has been a dampener on independent, grass-roots, entrepreneurial go-gettery. Worries that China's private sector is subject to restrictive regulations and the government is intruding into markets, could dampen creativity and restrict longer-term technology advances.

2.6.2 External Challenges

The most serious foreign challenge to China under Xi is the proliferation of trade tensions with the United States and other Western powers. The U.S.-China trade war is an obvious result of these tensions, with the U.S. adding tariffs to Chinese goods, China doing the same. The trade disputes have also led others to question the sustainability of China's export-driven growth model. The trade war has also caused China to reconsider that dependence on international markets, and move toward more self-reliance on key sectors, such as in technology. Those tensions could weaken China's economic ties with important trading partners and unsettle global supply chains, dragging down growth.

The global supply chain disruptions, a consequence of the COVID-10 pandemic, have been a headache for China as well. China, the world's factory floor, has been highly integrated for many years into global supply chains, but the pandemic revealed frailties in the model, which included dependence on foreign markets and the flow of crucial parts. In response, Xi Jinping has advanced the Dual Circulation Strategy as a way of lessening dependence on external markets and of orienting the economy toward the domestic, but that will be a tall order, especially as global supply chains are still in disarray and international trade is looking, if anything, shakier these days.

2.6.3 Criticism of Xi Jinping Thought

While Xi Jinping's economic policy has been widely heralded for leading China to its current status as a global economic superpower, his approach to leadership and his brand of political philosophy, called Xi Jinping Thought, have drawn criticism both in China and abroad.

One of the main points of negativity on Xi Jinping Thought is the too much concentration of power. Xi's rule has drawn comparisons with that of Mao Zedong, having concentrated more power in his hands and dismantled the collective leadership system under his predecessors. Detractors say this centralization weakens the political stability and effectiveness of the Beijing system because it increasingly depends on the thinking and whims of a lone figure rather than the judgment of multiple factions. This drift might result in economic inefficiency and irresponsibility, because measures are taken without more widespread consideration or resistance.

Xi has also faced criticism from human rights activists and foreign observers for his increasingly authoritarian style. Under Xi, the Chinese government has also cracked down on political freedoms, freedom of speech, and the press. The repression of criticism, political dissidence, freedom of religion, and surveillance have prompted many domestic and international reactions. Critics see those policies as an attempt to suppress innovation and retain political control at the expense of personal freedom that could weaken the long-term dynamism of the Chinese economy.

Xi Jinping's government has faced blistering international criticism over its human rights record, notably for its policies in Xinjiang, Tibet and Hong Kong. How China is cracking down on the Uighurs Authorities in Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR), in China's far west, maintain that camps are vocational training centers aimed to provide new skills to combat the emergence of Islamic extremism. The treatment of Uyghur Muslims in the region has drawn widespread condemnation from the international community, which has accused Beijing of incarcerating more than 1 million people in camps, and subjecting them to forced labor, torture, and forced "reeducation." The National Security Law in Hong Kong has led to a systematic reduction of political freedom and the oppression of pro-democracy

movements. Tensions with foreign governments and corporations over these human rights issues pose questions about whether China can sustain its integration with the world economy as long as these problems continue.

Strong state control and concentration of power have raised worries about economic inefficiencies. Some critics say that Xi's policy leans in favor of big state-owned enterprises (SOEs) and curtails market competition. SOEs are considered vital in – among other things – reaching national strategic objectives, but their dominance can hamper innovation, decrease efficiency, and enhance the chances of corruption. It can also be a chill place for business, with power characterized by political control and private enterprise burdened by a thick veil of regulation and government surveillance.

Xi Jinping's push for economic modernization has gained China unprecedented economic wealth but also has brought tremendous internal and external challenges and scrutiny from all sides at home and abroad. An economic slowdown, an aging population, and debt troubles at home in China itself, and trade tensions and geopolitical rivalries on the world stage provide formidable headwinds to China's continuing rise. In addition, Xi Jinping Thought is criticized for its heavy-handed central leadership, and the inefficiency of economic operation, which some fear may be a compromise towards innovation and sustainable economic development. While China finds her way with these challenges, what balance it establish between political stability, economic growth and political freedoms will play decisive role whether or not its economic modernization is sustainable in the world of tomorrow.

2.7 Impact of Xi Jinping Thought on Global Economic Dynamics

2.7.1 China's Role in the Global Economy

Xi Jinping Thought has profoundly influenced China's economic and geopolitical strategy, establishing China as a preeminent power in the global economy. Under Xi's leadership, China has deliberately used its economic might to enhance its worldwide influence, integrating economic policies with geopolitical objectives. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is pivotal to this global strategy, seeking to strengthen

China's economic ties across Asia, Europe, Africa, and beyond, while promoting infrastructure development, commerce, and investment in participating nations within this vast network. The Belt and Road Initiative, initiated in 2013, has emerged as one of Xi Jinping's most ambitious endeavors to expand China's global influence.

2.7.2 The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI):

The initiative is a leading instrument China uses to expand its global economic footprint. The BRI, Xi Jinping says, aims to establish or revitalize trade and economic connections between countries in Asia, Europe and Africa by providing construction money for highways, railways, ports and energy pipelines. These big infrastructure investments are designed to create greater economic connections between China and its partners and to give Chinese companies opportunities to go overseas. The BRI—both an economic project and a geopolitical one—extends its power and political leverage in the geographic areas where China needs to have a say on political and economic affairs.

The BRI's winning formula involves creating new economic relationships and commercial links that are advantageous for both China and participating countries, including underdeveloped countries in need of investment in infrastructure. The enterprise, however, has its share of critics, especially in terms of the ability of countries borrowing money to finance BRI undertakings to sustain their debt, sparking fears of China's debt-trap diplomacy. Critics say the BRI could leave participating countries beholden to the Chinese loans and further increase China's influence over them.

2.7.3 China's Increasing Influence in International Institutions:

Under Xi Jinping, China has increasingly asserted its influence in international organizations and has proclaimed itself a worldwide leader in governance. Under Xi, China has used its economic might to exert influence on institutions like the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the World Trade Organization (WTO), often advocating for reforms that would better represent China's expanding economic prominence. China has endeavored to establish new institutions that may

either complement or rival the old West-led institutions that have served as power centers since the conclusion of the Second World War, such as the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and the New Development Bank (NDB).

The rise of China has also meant major economic consequences for emerging markets. As China emerges as a major actor in global finance, its policies and actions have ramifications for the global economy, particularly in the developing world. China's economic links established by the BRI and its relations with the international financial institutions place it as a key player in the global development "arena" in areas such as: trade, infrastructure, sustainable development.

2.7.4 Global Response to Xi Jinping's Economic Policies

The economic catapult of China under Xi Jinping – in tandem with his more confident policies – has been met by a variety of reactions from Western countries, and developing countries, to the shifts in China's global economic status and Xi's wider vision of the way the global economy should be governed in the future.

2.7.5 Reactions from Western Countries, Particularly the United States:

Western nations, particularly the United States, have reacted with a mix of apprehension and prudence to China's rising economic influence and Xi Jinping's policies. Under Xi Jinping's leadership, China has emerged as significant component. challenger to the United States regarding global economic power, commerce, and technical supremacy. The trade conflict between the U.S. and China, started under President Donald Trump's administration and extending under President Joe Biden, highlights the discord between China's aspirations and Western interests. The United States has charged China of engaging in inequitable trade practices, intellectual property theft, exchange rate manipulation, and using state subsidies to advance Chinese businesses to the detriment of international rivals.

In particular, Xi Jinping's Made in China 2025 initiative, which focuses on technological self-sufficiency and dominance in advanced industries like artificial intelligence, robotics, and semiconductors, has alarmed the West. Western countries, especially the U.S., view these ambitions as a direct challenge to their technological

leadership and have taken measures to restrict China's access to critical technologies. The Trump administration's tariffs and sanctions against Chinese tech companies like Huawei and ZTE were among the most visible signs of Western resistance to China's rise.

Western responses have concentrated not just on economics but also on the geopolitical ramifications of China's ascendance, especially in Asia and Africa. The United States and some European nations have articulated apprehensions over China's influence via the Belt and Road Initiative and other economic alliances, worrying that China's expanding dominance over essential infrastructure may result in augmented political power. The West has reacted by reinforcing alliances, like the Quad (consisting of the U.S., Japan, India, and Australia), and seeking methods to counteract China's expanding influence in critical areas.

2.7.6 Reactions from Developing Nations:

Unlike the Western reaction, a number of developing countries have been receptive to China's economic ascent and Xi Jinping's economic policies, especially when it comes to the Belt and Road Initiative. For numerous emerging economies, China's investments and links in infrastructure have brought valuable capital and development prospects. Nations in Asia, Africa and Latin America have been the beneficiaries of Chinese loans and know-how, particularly for infrastructure projects that might have been otherwise difficult to finance through traditional Western channels. Investments from China have helped to increase trade, generate jobs and provide new economic opportunities for long-stagnated regions.

For numerous developing countries, Xi's emphasis on inclusive development and economic cooperation is appealing, especially when China presents itself as a growth partner, unburdened by the conditionality that often comes with Western aid. Xi's concept of a "Community of Common Destiny" has struck a chord in developing countries, which appreciate the theme of mutual respect, non-interference in internal affairs, and common prosperity. Nevertheless, some of the developing countries have also expressed concerns about the fact that loan provided by China comes as long-

term-debt through which they will be trapped and become more dependent on China, thus depriving them of their autonomy and sovereignty.

2.8 Conclusion

Xi Jinping's economic platform has fundamentally transformed China's place within the global economy and its role in global economic and political governance. By way of the Belt and Road Initiative, China has increased its economic sway, especially in developing nations, as well as its role in international organizations. Through Xi Jinping Thought, Xi's economic vision is to challenge the Western-led order that has dominated the world, notably in the domain of trade, technology, and global governance. Western nations, notably the United States, are skeptical about China's ascendance. However, many emerging countries value China as an economic ally presenting them with unprecedented prospects for progress and modernization. So long as China extends its influence, what the world says in response to this and Xi Jinping's policies will probably determine the fate of global economic interactions.

In sum, Xi Jinping Thought has now become a broad outline shaping China's economic modernization, deeply affecting both Chinese policies and its global strategy. The vision put forth by Xi has been what political scientists call a re-strategization of China's previous economic reforms, which aimed for fast growth — at minimum growth rates of 6 to 8 percent a year — and not just fast growth, but quality growth, which grows at a rate that is sustainable, and where investment is of high quality. Under Xi, the focus has itself shifted away from purely making things to high-quality development which focuses on tech advancement, clean energy and also on achieving self-sufficiency in strategically sensitive sectors like technology, cutting-edge manufacturing and clean energy. And his Made in China 2025 plan embodies the goal of repositioning China from a global manufacturing center to a power in high-tech areas. Meanwhile, Xi's advocacy of state management of key industries, in the form of SOEs, has restored the Communist Party's role as a driver of economic advancement. One of Xi's signature international economic strategies, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), has expanded Chinese presence in Asia, Africa and Europe by underwriting massive infrastructure projects and trade ties. These are the efforts which

have translated into China being a key player on the global stage, with economically strides made, particularly in the developing world.

But Xi's economic vision is meeting some big headwinds. The country's economic growth has decelerated from the breakneck pace of previous decades, in part as the economy shifts away from being driven by investment and toward long-term, high-quality growth. Another issue is the aging population, which put more stress on the social security system and decreases the pool of laborers to support economic growth. Also the heavy reliance by China on debt driven investment, particularly real estate, has led to concerns over the sustainability of its growth model. The country is in a debt hole as local governments and state-owned enterprises borrow at levels that are simply unsustainable, posing a threat to the economy's stability. Xi's policies were intended to alleviate these concerns, including the Dual Circulation Strategy designed to boost domestic demand, but China's dependence on external markets and global trade creates a weakness, especially with trade tensions emanating from the United States and other Western countries on the rise.

Xi's concentration of power has been another concern, with his rule marked by a tight grip on power, in the Communist Party in particular. While this concentration of power allows Xi to push through economic policies more decisively, it has also prompted criticisms about economic waste. Critics argue that the dominant position of state-owned enterprises (SOEs) and extensive government involvement in key sectors of the economy may erode the market-based logic of the reform program. Opponents contend that a state-run center may provide political stability but fail to promote innovation in the private sector and impede the possibility of market competition. This centralization has also faced criticisms for political freedoms and the human rights record which some believe as having the potential for risks to China's future economic engagement with the outside world.

For the future, more study will be needed to properly gauge the long-term effects of Xi Jinping's economic policies. One of the important areas of study is the Economic effect of Xi Jinping Thought on the development path of China. What does

the Chinese economy in the next decade look like as it continues to embrace high-quality growth and grapple with slower and aging population and rising debt? They also need to look at the long-term consequences of Xi's economic model—you cannot always maintain the golden balance between state control and market mechanisms. Xi has emphasized the role of the state in setting the direction for economic development, but it remains to be seen whether this will encourage sustained long-term investment in technology, economic dynamism, and international competitiveness, or whether it will result in stasis in key areas. A second critical field of inquiry concerns the shifting nature of global economic strategies and how well China will be able to respond to new geopolitical circumstances as competition with other economic poles of power intensifies.

Last but not least, Xi Jinping's economic modernization represents a sharp break with his predecessors' mindset to grow fast by putting on a rush, replacing it with a focus on quality and sustainability, not just hasty expansion. As China grapples with these issues, so, too, will its economic model change. Xi Jinping's rule and policies have helped to transform China's domestic economy, but the real test is ahead, for China faces an array of internal challenges stemming from demographic shifts, economic inequality, and financial fragility, on top of external pressures from the global pursuit of economic advantage and the geopolitical competition. The balance between preserving political stability and enabling economic innovation is likely to shape China's future. In the years ahead, it will be crucial to watch to see how Mr. Xi's economic philosophy works in practice, and whether the Chinese model of state-led capitalism can keep providing prosperity long term, or whether it will run up against serious obstacles as the global tides turn. As Xi Jinping's China endeavors to define its future place in an increasingly complex and ever-changing world, the direction of his policies for the Chinese economy and the world economy will continue to be a subject that scholars, policymakers and business leaders have to study.

CHAPTER 3

3. NEW WORLD ERA AND THE CHINESE DOCTRINE; XI JINPING

The 18th National Congress of the CPC has ushered in a new era in world history, offering profound insights into Xi's political ideology. It provides a framework for Chinese plans guiding China towards the trajectory of Rejuvenation. It seeks to establish a moderate and successful state founded on socialist rule with Chinese features, realizing the aspiration of national rejuvenation. All significant transformations intended to realize the Chinese ideal of modernization are predicated on the Five-sphere Integration Plan. The five-sphere combined approach is a comprehensive plan adopted by the CPC during the 18th National Congress in 2012. It encompasses a people-centered strategy that effectively outlines a roadmap for achieving social development by establishing an agenda for China's advancement across numerous dimensions, including cultural, political, social, economic, and ecological-environmental aspects. The Plan demonstrated the CPC's successful comprehensive policies that emphasize the integration of state diplomacy with Chinese features, eventually establishing a global community.

The Chinese dream of modernization lies in its foundation. Chinese strategy of Reform and Opening can be remarked as the beginning of building foundation initiated by the CPC four decades ago. Opting for this strategy opened the economic ways for the Republic of China turning it into a modernized state dominating the world order economically. The term "Chinese Dream" has got the popularization since the time Xi Jinping take over in 2012. The dream of China is regarded as a China's vision for a bright future focusing on the rejuvenation of the Chinese people. China has people-centered approach that encompasses the nation building realizing the sense of a national rejuvenation.

The four cardinal principles hold quite a prominent position in the Chinese dream. Four basic principles are adhered to way of modernization. China couldn't be a socialist state without adhering to the principles of progress. The Chinese ideology has adopted the pathway of Chinese socialism to accomplish their Chinese dream of social modernization. It opens up the way to progress in economic, cultural, political,

ecological & social spheres. China upholds the political, economic & other systems under one umbrella of the socialist system with the Chinese characteristics.

3.1 Economic Power; Internal Uplift

The internal advancement and economic strength of China have significantly contributed to the modernization of the People's Republic of China. The two characteristics are intricately connected. Foreign investments, export manufacturing, and industrial production serve as important instruments in the development of the Chinese economy, therefore amplifying the impact of foreign investments, education, infrastructure, and commerce worldwide. The economic power driven by the Chinese government encompasses the efforts made for increasing the overall progress of the state domestically & globally. The internal uplift of the state is integrated within the economic power that ushers a new era of advancement & prosperity. Chinese government introduced various reforms in different sectors such as; healthcare, education, trade, finance & global markets for ensuring the attainment of economic modernization.

3.2 The Chinese Dream: A Vision for the Future

The concept of Chinese dream; that was first coined by Xi Jinping entails a brief understanding of Chinese prospects in every field ultimately leading to the significant increase in economic growth. Xi Jinping vision for China is basically a tremendous attempt for paving the path for the prosperity of the state by seeking to ignite a renaissance of Chinese economy & culture for rejuvenating the nation & recognition in the global world. The Chinese dream could be regarded as the milestone for unleashing the pathway brimming with opportunities that paves the gateway towards an illustrious future.

Though, the term got prominence in the era of Xi Jinping but the efforts of the Deng Xiaoping couldn't be neglected as his charismatic personality & remarkable efforts will be always an inspiration for the Chinese nation while accomplishing the Chinese dream of national rejuvenation & Two Centenary Goals. The Chinese Dream can be remarked as the "Road to Rejuvenation" which created the opportunities that

result in heading the Chinese nation towards a path of rejuvenation. The Chinese dream encompasses the vision of Chinese government for a bright future. It is deeply linked with the nation's heritage that blends with the phenomenon of modernization.

Xi Jinping's political thought has always been centered to the global prominence, economic growth & prosperity, global engagement, national rejuvenation & promotion of Chinese culture with modernity. The marvelous economic policies were opted by the Chinese people for attaining the pursuit of becoming hegemonic power. It won't be wrong to say that Chinese dream not only focuses on the national revitalization but also focuses on brimming the opportunities for Chinese people that opens up the way for prosperity of a nation. Xi's publicly thought is centric to the collectivist approach instead of individualistic approach.

3.3 A Great Advance towards National Rejuvenation:

The roots of national rejuvenation can be traced back to Chinese ancient history & heritage. The economic modernization of China can be remarked as one of the important pillars of Chinese dream that laid its foundation on national rejuvenation. Since the remarkable era of Deng Xiaoping, Chinese economy has witnessed a shift from the centrally planned economy to a market-oriented economy. He assured to implement the economic policies that assure the opening up of Chinese market towards a global world.

The transition of Chinese economy has been an attempt to foster the technological & industrial advancement for modernizing the economy of the state. The national rejuvenation is not only achieved by the economic advancement, but it is achieved by the efforts initiated in every sphere that are opted for embarking towards a prosperous state. It emphasizes on the advancement in the different spheres that includes social development, political advancement, and cultural revival, rule of law, social welfare & green development.

3.4 Usher in a New Era of Global Progress:

The implications of the Chinese national rejuvenation have a tremendous impact on unleashing the China's hegemony. Xi's economics has been centered to the Chinese economic growth by enhancing the trade globally through making investments in every sphere. Chinese dream envisions a common goal to create a

prosper & harmonize state through implementing guiding principles of National Congress ultimately keeping a milestone of a progressive nation. Xi's economics has pioneered a prosperous & globalized era which inferred the reforms that paves the new ways to ensure the international cooperation by building a new harmonious community.

The 13th & 14th five-year PLAN of People's Republic of China has been centric to the goals of the social development & economic progress of the state. CPC has been opting the economic policies since XI's era to step into a new phase of progress. XI's economics can be remarked as an attempt for enhancing its influence in the international landscape through delving into the cooperation & the integrated economic progress. CPEC & BRI has been remarked as the important economic projects that contribute to adding a significant increase in Chinese wealth by fostering cooperation & integrating sustainability (Belt and Road Portal, 2021). All these policies were initiated for ushering a prosperous society through introducing the comprehensive approach that unleashes the new ways towards the economic advancement, cultural integration, and global collaboration for fostering a sustainable & developed state.

3.5 March towards the Second Centenary Goal:

CPC has been indulged in the process of tenacious struggle for the attainment of a moderate prospers state. All the reforms taken by the Chinese government in all the sectors prominently depicts the integration of socialist theory into the Chinese characteristics for keeping the milestone to achieve the goal to turn China into a moderate & socialist modernized state(Jinping, 2022). Once the first centenary goal of Chinese state; attaining a moderately prosperous society got accomplished, then China experienced a transition in the political ideology. This terminology of “moderate prosperity” was first used by Deng Xiaoping which reflected the Chinese-style modernization that works on the accomplishment of collective goals.

Chinese aspiration experienced a shift after the attainment of first goal of CPC; national rejuvenation towards the second Centenary goal which marked a new epoch

in the progress & development of state. The vision of Chinese representatives entails to turn China into a state which sets the best example of national reunification. In the era of Xi Jinping, a project of IMF, BRICS & One Belt, One Road Initiative was initiated which opened the State own Enterprises & Development.

China's economic strategies have played a pivotal role in the economic transformation of the state. The state's role in economic modernization is quite multifaceted. State-Owned enterprises have played a quiet significant role in the regulating the policies of dominating sectors which include finance, telecommunications, industries & energy. The SOEs has been working in alignment with states to serve the goals of the state. The industrial policies of CPC government have been involved in serving the state's interest ultimately ushering the social & economic development. These policies have encapsulated in the Five years plan paved the way towards economic transition by assuring the progress of enterprises & advancement of technological innovation. The strategic initiative taken by CPC that includes CPEC & Belt & Road Initiative (BRI) has made a significant advancement in the global economic integration by contributing towards the infrastructure. The Chinese model of globalization & modernization has encapsulated socialism with Chinese characteristics by creating a blend of market mechanism with the state control.

Chinese policies have assured the social stability for enhancing the economic growth of the state by providing the financial support to the enterprises through the phenomenon of the subsidies, providing tax incentives & low-interest loans. The economic policies opted in the era of Xi Jinping ensures to serve the objectives of the national development. Chinese modernization is not only limited to Xi's economics but the social & environmental strategies have also played an integrating role for achieving the CPC goals to attain social welfare & sustainable development. Chinese government has integrated guided principles of socialism into their policies & blended approach of economic liberalization & modernization for paving the way towards economic transition that ensures to create a balance in social equity & market efficiency (Mai, Yin H.; Frances Perkins, 1997).

3.7 SEO Reform in China

State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) have played an important role in China's economic reform, especially when China was in the transition from a centrally planned economy to a market-based economy. China's SOEs used to be the backbone of the country's economy, with core sectors, including energy, telecommunications and transportation, being monopolized by state-owned operators. Over the years the Chinese government has transformed these enterprises by transforming them in order to be more efficient, profitable and supportive for the national objectives. These factors have combined elements of privatization, consolidation and competition – while locking in a continuing role for the state in strategic industries.

Chinese SOE reforms aim to make the state lean and mean. One of the key goals of the Chinese government's reforms of its state-owned enterprises is to make the state fit enough to compete internationally. Southeast China has long been involved in the assimilation to the world market, yet the SOEs still have been significant in terms of resource administration and utilization. They are successful in earning profits to be re-invested into social welfare, education and healthcare among the government services, promoting the growth of the society. SOEs contribute to the pursuit of such social objectives by the Chinese government as inequality reduction, provision of basic social services, and promotion of inclusive economic growth. In addition, these firms act as an economic planning tool, in line with the government's broad objective of building a modern and prosperous China. This also serves the CPC's national imperatives of economic modernization and long-term stability. The overhaul of SOEs is part of China's grand strategy of undertaking globalization but retaining control of key industries and resources.

3.8 Local Government Participation

The local governments, as the most important force in shaping the national economic development, are responsible for transforming and carrying out national economic policies in the region. China already has a dual-track system, by which both central and local governments were engaged in economic governance,

where each had its own role in development and reform. Local governments are the organs in charge of execution of policies from the center, the building the market system and also is the loyalty of national goals into regional acts. Meanwhile, local governments can also adjust economic policies according to region-specific conditions, which is conducive to more effective development from the grass roots.

Local governments in many cases play a crucial role in the development of economic clusters by, e.g., by actively supporting infrastructure investments, SMEs, or investments in new industries. The synergy between central and local governments is a dynamic one that propels China's economy and as such China's overall progressive reputation. This loyalist approach gives flexibility to China's pursuit of modernization and accommodates local differences, rather than against its national strategy.

3.9 Portrayal of China as a Progressive Nation

Under Xi Jinping, China has endeavored to portray itself as a progressive nation on the international scene. Under his leadership, China's progress has been accompanied by a more assertive foreign policy aimed at showcasing China's emergence as a global economic, technical, and political force. Through the Belt and Road Initiative and China's participation in international organizations, Xi has positioned China as a preeminent global leader in economic collaboration, infrastructural development, and multilateral diplomacy. Domestically, Xi's policies foster technical innovation, sustainable growth, and social welfare, emphasizing that China's economic advancement encompasses not just expansion of riches but also enhancement of its quality for the populace. His administration has consistently portrayed China as a nation that has lifted tens of millions out of poverty, advanced in innovation, and is dedicated to assuming world leadership in sectors like as renewable energy and digital technology. In articulating national rejuvenation and China's pivotal role in global development, Xi has cultivated an image of China as a modernized, progressive nation ready to influence the destiny of the globe.

3.10 CPEC: A New Era of China-Pakistan Modernization

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a pivotal initiative under Xi Jinping's economic agenda aimed at initiating a new era of development for the populations of China and Pakistan. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a substantial, multi-billion-dollar infrastructure initiative including a network of roads, trains, energy pipelines, and expanded ports, designed to link western China to the Indian Ocean via Pakistan. It is regarded as a cornerstone of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and aims to enhance connectivity, foster economic collaboration, and stimulate growth in the region.

For China, CPEC is of strategic significance not only to protect trade routes but also to obtain access to the resource-abundant areas of Central Asia and Middle East. For Pakistan, the project is an answer to prayers: It offers the prospect of new infrastructure, jobs and economic growth in a nation where decades of investments have produced too little growth. The CPEC is the Chinese way of modernization — creating the needed infrastructure for long-term growth, stimulating economic activity and providing opportunities for economic transformation, both in China and Pakistan. The project illustrates Xi's emphasis on regional and international economic integration and the forging of new economic partnerships through development.

3.11 One Belt, One Road Initiative

Since 2013, Xi Jinping's hallmark foreign policy endeavor, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), has served as an economic development plan designed to integrate nations throughout Asia, Africa, and Europe into China's sphere via a network of trade routes, infrastructure, and investment. The Belt and Road Initiative represents China's current economic ambitions to promote modernization for itself and its partner nations, often targeting the so-called "developing economies" with burgeoning middle classes. The project seeks to foster economic growth and cultural interchange in disadvantaged regions via infrastructure development, trade centers, and economic collaboration. It is generally seen as China's endeavor to establish itself as a worldwide economic force.

China, through the BRI, has managed to offer developing nations financial assistance for infrastructure development, thereby assuming the role of leader in global economic development. It creates a win-win relationship for both China and the recipient countries, investing and developing in return for multiplied trade and economic relationship. Xi's vision for global economic leadership is the BRI, which would close the gap between rich and poor countries by promoting infrastructure, trade and mutual prosperity.

3.12 Xi's Economics and the Path Toward Modernization

Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China in 2012, Xi Jinping's economic ideology, referred to as "Xi Economics," has initiated a series of reforms aimed at achieving the Two Centenary Goals: the first goal is to establish a moderately prosperous society by 2021, and the second is to develop a Greater, Leaner, Fitter, Fairer, and Cleaner Socialism, alongside the construction of a modern socialist nation by 2049. These objectives align seamlessly with Xi's aspiration to transform China into a technologically advanced, self-sufficient, and internationally influential powerhouse.

Xi's economic approach has emphasized modernizing China's industrial base, especially around high-tech sectors, pushing forward with infrastructure development, and developing new growth engines. Under his leadership, the reform agenda has aimed to reconcile economic liberalism with tight state control, so that the economic development is in line with national objectives in China. Xi's political thinking reveals a clear Maoist influence that might be described as totalitarian in nature, focusing on "centralization" of power and "national independence," similar to Mao, and is expressed in "national rejuvenation" and "global leadership," both co-opted from Mao's era.

3.13 Soft Diplomacy as a Tool for Rising Chinese Power

Xi Jinping has been wielding soft diplomacy more and more as an instrument to promote China's steadily increasing power in the world. Soft diplomacy is the act of trying to establish economic and cultural connections through trade agreements,

investments, and cultural exchanges and doing so without having to use military force or political blackmail. The BRI is this sort of soft power that China is using economic cooperation to establish long-term partnership and influence in the world's hemisphere. Through infrastructure and investment to developing nations, China has emerged as an alternative to the traditional Western powers, winning fans through economic diplomacy rather than political conditioning or military hegemony.

Xi's approach of soft diplomacy, cum China's burgeoning economic strength, has ensured China assuming its role as a global economic leader, whilst it peddles its own version of multi-polar world order, where the whole question of global governance is not at the beck and call of western powers. This type of diplomacy – and of many those who have met him, it has become clearer that the Xi era is a reign of diplomacy which aims to bring China's influence to new limits while promoting its commercial thinking – is at the centre of Xi's broader strategy to expand influence and pursue its economic interests, in order to usher in a new age of modernization where China leads the way in determining global economic development.

3.14 Conclusion

Xi Jinping's conception of China's economic modernization is characterized by a synthesis of technological innovation, governmental oversight, and global economic supremacy. The Belt and Road Initiative, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, and Xi's economic reforms are China's strategy to contest the existing global order as it transitions from a manufacturing powerhouse to a leader in high-tech innovation and sustainable development. Through subtle diplomacy, Xi has effectively shown China's emerging economic might worldwide by establishing trade deals and fostering enduring connections with developing countries. Even as Xi's policy priorities take shape, they will be key determinants of the future of China's economic power, one that will enable it not only to modernize at home but also to project its influence in global economic governance.

CHAPTER 4

4. CHINA'S GLOBAL VISIBILITY AND PARTICIPATION

4.1 Supporting Global Environmental Efforts (Climate-Oriented Diplomacy – COD)

The efficacy of “Green China” has garnered global acclaim and adoration. Numerous cities have seen substantial decreases in pollution levels. Xi proposed promoting the synchronized development of the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei area and creating the Xiong'an New Area. The China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone, established in 2013, has succeeded in facilitating the growth of initial free trade agreements to 18, with Hainan Island selected for development as a pilot free trade zone. Xi further proclaimed the greater deregulation of sectors including as finance and automotive (Diamond & Schell, 2019).

China's initiatives in renewable energy, particularly solar and wind power, have bolstered its image for environmental sustainability. It now predominates in worldwide manufacture and deployment of sustainable energy technologies. The International Energy Agency (IEA) indicates that over one-third of the global solar capacity is located in China. Furthermore, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has recently included the concept of a “Green BRI,” aimed at promoting environmentally sustainable infrastructure and development in partner countries. Nevertheless, scholars caution that despite these efforts, China continues to finance coal projects abroad and must synchronize its domestic and international environmental regulations (Xu & Stanway, 2022). Nevertheless, by taking center stage in climate discussions and forming partnerships with the European Union and Global South on sustainable development, China has enhanced its diplomatic capital and visibility on the global environmental stage.

4.2 Restraining Direct Conflict with the USA

Despite growing geopolitical tensions and strategic rivalry with the United States, China has consistently demonstrated a policy of avoiding direct military confrontation with Washington. This approach reflects a broader strategy of cautious

engagement and calculated competition, rooted in Deng Xiaoping's guiding principle of "hide your strength, bide your time." Scholars such as Mearsheimer (2019) and Allison (2017) describe the Sino-American relationship as one of "strategic competition," where both powers vie for influence but stop short of outright conflict. China has adopted what many analysts describe as a "peaceful rise" doctrine, projecting its influence through economic interdependence, multilateral engagement, and soft power rather than direct confrontation.

Diplomatic measures such as high-level dialogues, participation in U.S.-led global institutions, and crisis management hotlines have been maintained even during periods of tension, such as the trade war (2018–2020), the Taiwan Strait crisis, and disputes in the South China Sea. China's restraint is also evident in its strategic military posturing: while it continues to modernize its military, it refrains from aggressive alliances or provocations that could lead to open warfare. Additionally, China's economic interdependence with the U.S.—both being each other's largest trading partners—further discourages escalation. Experts like Wang and Zhu (2021) argue that China's long-term vision is to surpass the U.S. economically and technologically while avoiding the "Thucydides Trap," where rising powers historically clash with established ones. By managing competition within controlled parameters, China seeks to maintain its global rise without triggering large-scale conflict, thus preserving a stable international environment that facilitates its developmental goals.

4.3 Strict One China Policy

China's steadfast commitment to the "One China" policy is a fundamental element of its foreign policy and national sovereignty principles. This policy maintains that there is a singular China and that Taiwan is an integral component of it—a position that China anticipates other nations and international organizations to honor. This strategy originated in the aftermath of the 1949 Chinese Civil War, when the People's Republic of China (PRC) was founded on the mainland and the Republic of China (ROC) government relocated to Taiwan. The Chinese Communist Party

(CCP) has said that Taiwan must ultimately be reunified with the mainland, preferably by peaceful methods, but resorting to force if required.

The One China policy has significant implications for China's global diplomatic engagement. China has consistently used its economic and political influence to pressure countries, corporations, and international organizations to avoid recognizing Taiwan as an independent state. According to scholars like Kastner (2020), China has linked diplomatic recognition and access to its markets to strict adherence to the One China framework, successfully reducing the number of countries maintaining formal ties with Taiwan to fewer than 15 by 2023. Beijing has also opposed any international representation for Taiwan, including its participation in organizations like the World Health Organization and United Nations.

China's stance on this issue has intensified in recent years, especially in response to increased U.S.-Taiwan relations, arms sales, and high-level political visits. These actions are often met with military drills and diplomatic protests from Beijing. Analysts warn that Taiwan remains a major flashpoint in U.S.-China relations, but China's approach remains rooted in diplomatic pressure, strategic patience, and military deterrence rather than immediate aggression. This unyielding commitment to the One China policy enhances China's internal legitimacy and asserts its sovereignty narrative on the global stage, reinforcing its image as a power that does not compromise on core national interests.

In this new millennium, China is quickly becoming a world power, influencing international politics at a dizzying rate. China, the world's number two economy, has taken a measured approach to become a worldwide leader in fields such as governance, trade, and environmental protection, all while keeping in line with the priorities of the nations it assists. The country's vision of a multipolar world order reflects its desire to influence global leadership while respecting the sovereignty of states. Of particular note is China's audacious strategic plan to increase global connectivity and economic cooperation known as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). China aspires to establish itself as a responsible global actor via its active involvement

in global environmental initiatives and the One China Policy. With its membership in the UN and the WTO, China is contributing to global forums. Since the late 1970s, China has been more economically linked into the global economy and has made success in this area. On some economic metrics, it had surpassed all others to become the biggest economy in the world by the middle of the 2000s. It also demonstrated notable military development alongside its economic progress. Its material increase might simultaneously exacerbate the uncertainty over Chinese foreign policy (Fu, 2017).

People wonder about how this will affect China's foreign policy in the future. The shift in Chinese foreign policy culmination has come under the current Xi Jinping administration. President Xi, by contrast, has pursued a more aggressive, confident foreign policy than his predecessors. The Xi government launched an assertive foreign policy that showcased China's rising reach. Xi has pursued ambitious strategies to reshape both its regional periphery and the global order. But there was also a large ramping up of the problems facing China's foreign policy under the Xi administration. One of those challenges is the growing number of countries that are wary of China's growing material influence (Feng, 2016).

Similarly, many policy initiatives put forward by Xi's administration crystallize the palm-off attitudes and discourses of China's new era foreign policy. These attitudes are primarily nebulous and indeterminate notions. While neither strategically-motivated nor very rhetorical, it is not without substance. Such ambiguity allows other international actors to adopt these stances and reach their own conclusions about what they mean. The slogan part is, in fact, one of the main jobs of these foreign policy notions: it means desire, want - catchy text that gets attention, moves people to act. China's new ideals are also a sort of power assertion and a gauge of support inside and outside its borders. The international discourse around these aspirations is seen as recognition of China's ascendant position as a major power shaping the global agenda. China's global ambitions represent its aspiration to peacefully alter and reshape the regional and global order to its benefit. They want to underscore that the nation's expanding economic and military might does not

constitute a danger to other nations; rather, China's ascent will persist in benefiting everybody. These ideals significantly contribute to the cultivation of a favorable perception of the Chinese government both domestically and internationally (Hand, 2016).

4.4 Chinese Dream

Upon inheriting office, Xi Jinping designated the "Chinese dream" as a principal priority. The notion represented national rejuvenation, economic prosperity, and the creation of an enhanced society. It signifies the aim of attaining a "moderately affluent society" in the medium term and a "modern socialist state" in the long term. In a 2012 speech, Xi said that the obstacles after the Opium War had created favorable conditions for the rejuvenation of China. According to him, a paramount objective of the Chinese populace since the advent of modernity has been "attaining rejuvenation." Xi used the phrase "the Chinese Dream" to articulate the revitalization of the Chinese people and their homeland. The resurgence of China, also referred to as the Chinese dream, embodies the communist aspiration for an affluent, strong, and harmonious nation. By the centenary of the establishment of the People's Republic of China in 2049, the objective is to restore China's stability (Pils, 2015).

Xi Jinping has said that achieving the great resurrection of the Chinese nation is the principal goal of China's foreign and domestic policy, going beyond the scars of the century of shame. Xi breaks out the process into three stages: the ascent of Mao, the wealth of Deng, and the authority that Xi promises to attain. Final goal: socialist modernization; "great modern socialist country" status; and "global leader in combined national and international power" status for China. The pursuit of national rejuvenation in China reflects the aspirations of Chinese nationalists for wealth, influence, and prestige (Qiao, & Zhang, 2021).

The Chinese dream seeks to unify the nation under a shared identity and restore its illustrious history. It aspires for the nation to collaboratively attain a prosperous future. It suggests that people will likewise get their portion in the nation's forthcoming riches and acclaim. The primary focus is on the nation's attainment of a

successful and promising future. The Chinese Dream embodies the aspiration to rejuvenate China as a significant economic force, while fostering more confidence in the nation's economic prospects. The application of these notions to the regional level was further examined when Xi articulated a "Asia-Pacific Dream" aimed at fostering mutual growth and prosperity among China and other Asian regions. In a 2014 address, Xi expressed his anticipation that other nations will comprehend and endorse the Chinese ideal. He said that the Chinese dream seeks to guarantee the prosperity of both the Chinese populace and all other nations. He underscored that the Chinese dream is to attain peace, development, and collaboration in the global context under the win-win concept (Ren, & Xiao, 2021).

Xi has often asserted that China has significantly contributed to world peace and prosperity. In this context, Xi assigns to China the responsibility of a nation that "fosters world peace," "upholds international order," and "advances global development." He considers "making new and greater contributions to humanity" as China's paramount task. These goals function as a vital benchmark for China's diplomatic endeavors and global stature. Ambitious foreign policy discourses, regardless of their alignment with the existing reality, are significant for establishing a crucial agenda both domestically and internationally (Wei, 2018).

4.5 A New Type of Great Power Relations

A "new type of great power relations" was one of the goals promoted by the Xi administration's assertive foreign policy approach. This approach places an emphasis on contacts with big states in order to change the international environment in China's favor. The Xi government has stressed the need of peaceful, mutually respectful, and cooperative Sino-American relations, urging both sides to refrain from aggressive rhetoric and actions. The relations between the two countries should not be predicated on the rivalry between the ascendant power and the existing hegemonic power; both nations must honor each other's core interests, and mutual cooperation would yield benefits for both parties. This conception was proposed to enhance China's significance in bilateral ties, so prompting the US to regard China with more seriousness. Through this policy, China aims to attain parity with the US and get

acknowledgment of its fundamental interests by the US. During his 2013 meeting with Obama, Xi said that the Pacific Ocean can accommodate both China and the United States. These assertions suggested a strategic parity between China and the United States (Ye, 2020).

The dissolution of the Soviet Union positioned the United States as the only superpower able to curtail China's economic growth, hence enhancing the significance of the Sino-American relationship. The relationship between the United States and China was the principal impetus for the newly established paradigm of great power interactions. China must adeptly navigate the intricate Sino-US ties. Chinese policymakers recognize that a stable and collaborative relationship with the United States is crucial for sustaining China's economic development. Nevertheless, the bilateral relationship is very confusing and complicated due to the substantial contrasts in the objectives of the two states. As a result, the Xi administration has used this strategy to keep the relationship on a manageable course. Chinese officials want to avoid conflict and confrontation with the conceptualization. They advocate for mutual respect toward each other's fundamental interests and cooperation based on the win-win principle (Dixon & Ginsburg, 2014).

President Xi proposed this new model of relations to highlight that collaboration between the two major powers will be advantageous both bilaterally and internationally (Deng, 2022: 38). He emphasizes the need of discarding a zero-sum perspective in Sino-American relations, advocating for the establishment of a partnership based on mutual respect for each party's essential national interests. This policy prioritizes collaboration over competitiveness to prevent a high-level conflict between the US and China. This notion is essential for the forthcoming Chinese leadership to actively delineate and oversee the bilateral partnership. Historically, the United States has mostly undertaken attempts to define the bilateral relationship. In 2005, the concept of 'responsible stakeholder' developed by US authorities was paramount. The notion represents a Chinese endeavor to characterize China-US ties on a more equitable basis. This policy suggestion indicates a need for the United States to

modify its strategy for China, demonstrating more respect for China's fundamental interests (Garrick, & Bennett, 2016).

In contrast to its predecessors, the Xi administration has the confidence to engage in conflict with the United States. The new government has not refrained from confronting the US whenever deemed appropriate. It did not prioritize satisfying the United States. The belief that China is a global power comparable to the US is central to its new foreign strategy. Chinese great power diplomacy aims to manage US-China competition, prevent US-led security framework in East Asia, promote multipolarity, counter US-led pressure, set China up for regional and global leadership, turn its immediate neighborhood into a growth and influence zone, and create an international climate that will help its economy grow. Great power diplomacy seeks to mitigate the competition between China and other major nations. Xi advocated for a new paradigm of great power diplomacy with the United States and characterized Russia as China's "most significant strategic partner" (Guo, 2016).

Former Foreign Minister Wang Yi underscored China's intention to establish a novel diplomatic framework with major nations and adopt a more proactive stance in global affairs. In recent years, China's objectives and areas of engagement have acquired a worldwide scope. In this context, Xi discussed the establishment of a new great power diplomacy aimed at achieving comprehensive stability and balanced development. He seeks to cultivate relations characterized by a novel paradigm of engagement with the US, a comprehensive strategic partnership with Russia, a collaboration focused on peace, growth, and prosperity with Europe, a partnership of unity and cooperation with the BRICS nations, mutual development with African countries, and an elevated comprehensive cooperation partnership with Latin American countries. The pursuit of novel forms of big power interactions signifies China's effort to establish its position among the great powers. China asserts its status as a global great power while also articulating a distinct perspective on great power interactions (Gow, 2017).

4.6 New Type of International Relations

The Xi administration seeks to repair relations with pivotal states while endeavoring to redefine international relations comprehensively. At the 20th Party Congress in 2022, Xi Jinping announced the objective to promote a "new type of international relations." He underscored that China would support other developing countries and augment the influence of BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). They will strive to augment the influence of rising countries in global affairs. In a 2014 speech, Xi Jinping promoted the development of "neighborhood diplomacy" to improve China's diplomatic strategy in light of evolving conditions. He emphasized the need of transforming China's neighboring regions into a community of shared destiny for mutual benefit. Xi promoted the enhancement of cooperation with other developing nations and the close integration of China's development with the destinies of these countries. In this context, developing countries are seen as China's natural allies (Gao, 2021).

A significant outward-oriented project of the Xi administration has been the formulation of "unity of common destiny". This conceptualization was proposed to enhance China's interactions with many countries, especially its neighbors. Despite the Xi administration's global aspirations, its primary focus has always remained its near vicinity. The concept of a shared destiny is anticipated to originate from the local community and extend to other areas. Xi Jinping articulates a new foreign policy vision termed "the community of the common future for humanity." This notion articulates the aspiration to eschew a zero-sum perspective in international affairs. Establishing a community centered on a shared future via communication, mutual respect, and honesty suggests the need of circumventing rivalry among nations that may result in devastation (Fu, 2014).

Xi conceptualizes this vision as "a network of partnership connecting all regions of the world" (Singh, 2023). He asserts that concepts such as peace, development, fairness, and democracy, and freedom—universal values of humanity—will serve as guiding tenets. Chinese officials frequently emphasize peace and development at international conferences. They depict peace and development as a

universally shared value. The international community's interconnected interests make the establishment of a shared future a vital need. The "community of the common future" aims to establish shared objectives for all mankind, irrespective of any disparities. It signifies China's perspective on international relations and its approach to global challenges. This vision also embodies the aspiration for a global order whereby China can assume a more significant role (He, 2021).

Relying on philosophy and classical literature as a source of wisdom, Chinese officials hope the harmonious philosophy could be their solution to global problems, bringing peace and prosperity to the world. This effort to report traditional Chinese culture's principles of harmony, morality, and compassion in modern international relations aims to avoid making the strong China as make an aggressive and revisionist country (Ho, 2012).

This new paradigm of international relations is meant for the international community, and aims to present a constructive image of China's development. It aims to convey that China's economic leap is not only complementary to the economic development of its neighbors, but also a necessity for them. Thus, the message is the both China and its neighboring countries benefit in a win-win partnership. This understanding of international affairs is also intended to present China as a country that aims to avoid the label of being a revisionist power and to associate its actions with rational behavior rather than as a threat to its neighbors. Never mind that many of these ideals have been largely rhetorical, they matter to China's global ambitions. In recent years, as China has begun to rise in power, it has aimed to bolster its global image and align the international landscape with its goals by initiating initiatives addressing the global community (Chen, 2010).

4.7 Rising Assertiveness in International Governance

The Xi administration's innovative diplomatic strategy aims to create alternative frames that China can shape, while eschewing overtly contesting the international status quo. If the new government is to make any headway on this front, it must work to create an international consensus that can blunt strategic demands

from the United States. Also, we need to make the environment more appealing to China. Precisely positioning China as the protector of the liberal economic system, Xi has often said in international meetings that the country would open itself wider to the rest of the world. Thus, the free-and-open economic system has been very beneficial to China. It went from a very poor and destitute economy to one of the biggest in the world once it embraced the free economic system. The United States, a liberal economic order ally, has seen protectionist sentiments take hold as a result of China's growing economic might (Hu, 2021a).

The nationalist economic policies of the Trump administration have positioned the two nations in direct confrontation. As Trump enacted protectionist measures against China, China began to promote liberal free trade. Despite China's economy not being a complete market economy, Xi's remarks at the 2017 World Economic Forum were notable for their support of a liberalized economic system. At the Forum, Xi said that China is resolute in advancing the liberalization and facilitation of international trade and investment. He said that no victor would emerge from any trade war (Clarke, 2014).

China advocates for a novel global trade agreement that more accurately represents the interests of poor nations. Concurrently, China is engaged in regional measures to advance free trade. Nonetheless, China remains cautious of international organizations in which it does not engage and that aim to counterbalance its influence. In this regard, China has been acutely aware of American efforts to establish a security framework in the Asia-Pacific by uniting its regional allies into a coalition intended to counteract China's influence. China has expressed skepticism on US efforts to unite Australia, Canada, Japan, and Southeast Asian nations under the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP). China, while being a significant economic power, was excluded from TPP discussions and expressed fear that the TPP will serve as a mechanism to regulate its regional economic influence. Subsequent to the US exit from the TPP in 2017, China emerged in a more advantageous position to propose alternative multilateral initiatives (Pils, 2017).

At a summit in 2014, President Xi stated that Asian nations must tackle Asian issues. Xi vowed to strengthen the security of Asians, and sought to offer a substitute for the American “strategic axis”. The world’s largest trading bloc has been awakened with the implementation of the RCEP. This accord, involving 15 Asian countries, has entered as a key part of deeper relations among East Asian economies. This was a huge step forward in tying a number of Asian countries to China and creating an economic bloc surrounding China. China’s leadership of the RCEP also spoke to its ambition to take a leading role in the Asia-Pacific (Peerenboom, 2015).

Since assuming office, President Xi has been actively establishing new international frameworks that more effectively correspond with Chinese foreign policy objectives. China played a pivotal role in the formation of the New Development Bank in 2014 as a prominent member of the BRICS coalition. In 2014, China established the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) to aid poorer countries in enhancing their infrastructure. This bank was founded to assist growing Asian countries with their infrastructure needs and to support projects under China’s Belt and Road Initiative (Wuthnow, 2017).

An aggressive foreign policy primarily consists of the Belt and Road Initiative, the New Development Bank, and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. Engaging with China to assist the nation in using its economic might to maintain and enhance its regional and global influence. Western governments often express concern that China may use these global efforts to exert its enhanced geostrategic influence on other regional countries. Cost-effective conditions and expedited funding have emerged as defining characteristics of Chinese-backed financial organizations, such as the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the New Development Bank, enabling them to differentiate themselves from IMF and World Bank entities (Wu, 2018).

China’s expanding diplomatic and structural power is evident in its ability to achieve its ends through deft engagement with international organizations and norms. China has a crucial role in decisions of the global organizations and also in the launching of projects like AIIB, SCO and BRICS. China’s portfolio of collaboration

has expanded impressively under Xi. From 2013 to 2019, China established strategic partnerships with 103 countries — an increase from 65 in 2013. An important component of the action of the proactive diplomacy paradigm is the formation of alliances by China during the Xi administration. When modernity started, China has tried to build its own theories of diplomacy base on its major-power status. For its unvarnished challenge to norms and rules put forth by Western powers, China was dubbed a “norm shaker” during the Mao period. In the post-Mao period, it was rather easy to be a “norm taker” who was ready to accept and even get into engagement with foreign regimes and institutions, particularly the West. China today aspires to be a norm-creating and a norm-accepting actor (Xu, 2016).

4.8 Supporting Global Environmental Efforts (SGEF)

China's robust involvement in international environmental projects significantly underscores its growing influence on the global economy. As the foremost emitter of greenhouse gases, China significantly impacts international climate initiatives, particularly the Conference of the Parties (COP), shaping global environmental policy. By pledging to ambitious goals, such as achieving carbon neutrality by 2060 and reaching peak carbon emissions by 2030, China has positioned itself as a leader in the fight against climate change (Garrick, & Bennett, 2018). China's environmental policies will significantly influence the economy. Its substantial expenditures in renewable energy, including solar, wind, and hydroelectric technologies, advance global environmental objectives while simultaneously generating employment and stimulating economic growth locally and internationally. China has emerged as the preeminent global producer and exporter of green technology, distributing solar panels, electric vehicles, and batteries internationally. These initiatives enhance its economic power by acquiring new markets and reinforcing its position as a global provider of renewable energy services. Moreover, China's environmental policies are intrinsically connected to its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which advocates for sustainable infrastructure projects in allied countries. This dual-faceted approach of environmental conservation and economic

advancement enables China to strengthen business relationships while aligning with global sustainability requirements (Yu, 2017).

China's soft power in international politics is evidenced in both its active engagement in COP discussions as well as in shaping environmental policy. By aligning its commercial goals with global environmental targets, it is both combating the climate crisis and improving its ability to shape how the world economy evolves going forward. This fusion of ecological crusade with economic strategy showcases China's ability to dovetail ecological responsibility with its ambition to command the world's economic stage (Zhang, 2017).

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"Global environmental governance" is a system of interdependent, trusting, and mutually beneficial international organizations working in concert to pursue common objectives in environmental and natural resource governance. With the continuing repercussions of this crisis against the backdrop of COVID-19, economic stagnation, environmental destruction and rising climatic threats, we depend on international arrangements that crawl and institutions that are already wobbly.

A notable example is the impasse at the 25th Convention of the Parties (COP 25) in Madrid, Spain, over carbon trading under the UN Framework Agreement on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The outcome of this disintegration is that the global political and financial framework is manipulated and ineffective. Greetings, everyone. China has reevaluated its position in international governance of environment and is keen to advance the SGEF, a global initiative where individuals and nations share a common fate. Since its inception in 2012, SGEF has promoted the augmentation of

Chinese worldwide influence by offering a framework for environmental standards and China's overarching strategy in international relations; it is fundamentally supported by a Chinese conceptual paradigm. SGEF advocates for increased expenditures in international climate and environmental organizations to promote fair and reasonable rule-making that ensures equitable participation and sharing of benefits among various stakeholder groups (Zhang, 2021).

The SGEF plan is integral to President Xi Jinping's global ecological and conceptual paradigm. It exerts considerable and increasing normative influence on China's engagement in environmental cooperation, which has broadened through diverse international and regional collaborative frameworks, including the Belt and Road Partnership (BRI), South-South Assistance, and the negotiation processes of the United Nations A framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The scope and sufficiency of sustainable development capacity-building, together with China's international collaboration and the UN process, may be expedited via the support of SGEF. The People's Republic of China is expected to host UNCBD COP 15 (the 15th Conference of the Parties to the League of Nations Convention on Biological Diversity) in 2021, at Kunming, China Yunnan Province. This crucial assembly seeks to avert biodiversity decline and set a new benchmark for international environmental governance, highlighting the nation's contribution to global sustainability initiatives (Teon, 2016).

SGEF represents the evolution of global governance via growth and China's assertive approach towards international society. This is the comprehensive global perspective that China articulates via a collaborative manner, influencing the tactics of this major power on soil and climatic issues. This vision offers a comprehensive perspective on the future by advocating for a holistic reform of global governance and international relations, while delineating particular pathways for sustainable development worldwide. China aims to tackle global environmental issues by disseminating its knowledge via the SGEF initiative (Zhou & Feng, 2019).

The SGEF idea is important for China's foreign policy in several respects, not only a means. Fostering fair, rational and mutually beneficial global ecological governance; show that befits a responsible major power, and guarantee national plan on addressing climate change plays out. Consider the global environmentalism that China pursued here, with its three pillars in the form of the green belt and road initiative, the Paris Agreement and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals. The country will also use its expanding collaboration with UN-led agencies as proof that this concept is taking corporeal shape around the world. The role of China in Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals for 2030 is based on two points (Blackwill, & Harris, 2016).

In light of the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Sustainable growth Goals, which serve as critical policy instruments for China's low-carbon and eco-friendly growth, the country is progressively adopting the relevant legislation. China has the opportunity to enhance its image and reinforce its status as a preeminent nation in rule-making and institutional development by actively engaging in contemporary global environmental governance frameworks, including the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda (Clarke, 2003).

In conjunction with its Belt and Road project, China has introduced a green project aimed at fostering environmental collaboration among South-South nations while complying with stringent sustainability standards. Long-term sustainability of China's Belt and Road Initiative necessitates international collaboration on environmentally sustainable initiatives. China has been endeavoring to execute these procedures and engage in the UN international environmental agreements with the assistance of SGEF. China has consistently shown itself as a steadfast advocate and protector of the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals for 2030. These issues have evolved into significant avenues for China's engagement in global environmental regulation, exemplifying the policy of upholding multilateralism and establishing a new, expansive framework for international relations (Deng, 2021).

China is committed to establishing an ecological civilization that tackles developmental difficulties both globally and locally by incorporating ecological and environmental concerns. This notion demonstrates their commitment. Furthermore, four elements under the SGEF framework may elucidate China's evolving perspective on global environmental governance. China's new national plan prioritizes environmental and ecological protection. The environmental pillar, with China's political, economic, social, and cultural pillars, has been established as part of the nation's initiative to construct a contemporary environmental governance system within the ecological civilization framework. China has accomplished this objective via the construction and reform of central agencies that collaborate to enhance coordination mechanisms, devise and execute national policies, and bolster governmental efficacy from the top down. In the framework of its 13th Five-Year Plan, China is striving to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and climate objectives, which are included into the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) (Deng, 2021).

Secondly, to meet its international commitments, China is now experiencing a green transformation. A burgeoning trend in global governance, mirroring China's economic metamorphosis, is the deep integration of climate policy, environmental concerns, and economic progress. The environmental advantages of China's low-carbon transition have arisen from several local initiatives aimed at reducing air pollution, as shown by the country's domestic climate programs. Moreover, we have achieved all goals specified in our 2013 national Ten Measures for the Environment Initiative. China now excels in creative and sustainable energy solutions. China may modify its unsustainable economic structure and provide strong sociopolitical signals to all levels of government to promote sustainability via global engagement. This corresponds with global trends and protects the environment (Deng, 2021).

Third, as its economy grows, China may provide more support to other growing countries via public goods and technological assistance. China is evidently prepared to participate in global governance with projects like the Silk Road Fund, Asian Strategic Management Bank, and Belt and Road Initiative. Should these steps

be adopted, they would markedly promote the 2030 Agenda and address climate change. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is an extensive worldwide endeavor designed to disseminate China's economic opportunities across countries willing to cooperate and progress alongside China. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is a modern manifestation of China's heightened economic and diplomatic ambitions. The environmental targets for sustainable development were strengthened in April 2017 when several government agencies issued regulations for the building of the Green Belt and Road Initiative. An key component of executing the Green Belt and Road Initiative is the development of critical infrastructure (Deng, 2021).

China and the United Nations have reached an agreement over the Belt and Road Initiative, also known as the BRI, and the promotion of sustainable development. China fully endorses the United Nations as the primary framework for world governance. President Xi Jinping has often said that the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is congruent with the 2030 Agenda for Development that is Sustainable. China's proposal for environmentally sustainable global collaboration is accelerating the formation of collaborative bodies and UN-led international projects. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres contends that the Belt and Road Initiative strengthens the UN 2030 Agenda, enhances the equity and inclusivity of economic globalization, and is essential for tackling global issues via international cooperation. The UN organized a high-level meeting to promote the SDGs related to the BRI, highlighting the UN's dedication to this program (Dicey, 1961).

China's role in global governance, from domestic reforms like the Ecological Civilization Initiative to its economy, is tightly linked. These are factors that represent political determination by China in using external obligations to accomplish its home agenda. Furthermore, the SGEF conception could help broaden and enhance China's environmental commitments and engagement in international environmental and climate governance, thus reinforcing the effectiveness of the climate governance architecture and becoming an engine of the SDGs (Dicey, 1961).

4.9 Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)

Initiated in 2013, China's Belt-and-Road Initiative is its principal worldwide development plan to increase trade and connectivity across Europe, Africa, and Asia. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) encompasses investments in energy, commerce networks, and infrastructure across more than 140 nations. Improvements to trade and economic development are the goals of the projects, which include railways, ports, and industrial parks. Still, environmentalists and others who claim debt diplomacy have criticized the BRI. Notwithstanding these obstacles, the initiative continues to serve as a showcase for China's global punch line, revealing its aspirations for the establishment of a new global economic order (Ho, 2016).

Global environmental governance Depends on economic capacity to maintain the existing international organizations and set up new ones. China's explosive expansion from 1978 to 2020 has bolstered its ability to take on a greater role in international environmental governance. In the framework of SGEF idea, China's actions will change the existing institutional constellation and set up new structures in the global environmental governance system (Hu, 2016).

The Green BRI is a significant and pioneering policy group in this domain. China has prioritized South-South cooperation on climate change and ecological problems via the Belt and Road Program (BRI). The Green Belt and Road Programs were created specifically to tackle environmental issues. At the 2019 second Belt and Road The Forum for International Cooperation (BRF) in Beijing, China underscored its objective of fostering open, green, and clean collaboration, pledging to establish a sustainable Belt and Road initiative. In accordance with these objectives, the Chinese Ministry of Ecology and Environment initiated the Green Belt and Road Initiative, which underscores the policy and ecological importance of biodiversity, climate change, and the sustainability of the environment (Liu & Li, 2019).

Especially bringing down carbon emissions in BRI and green finance initiatives validate that this is the crucial step needed to cut down drastic amount of carbon emissions in future to achieve the Paris Agreement. Accordingly, China is

championing sustainable financing for Belt and Road Initiative projects in line with SGEF criteria. Cooperative projects in Africa have increasingly placed an emphasis on sustainability and their environmental impacts, generating more interest among lenders and investors in green financing (Rose, 2004).

At the same time, China issued targeted governance regulations on green infrastructure construction and ecological and environmental quality improvement as part of the green BRI, and general guidelines on how Chinese enterprises carrying out BRI projects can promote green development. For instance, this is mentioned in the 2015 BRI “Vision and Actions” paper, where China highlights the need of environmentally friendly and low-carbon building practices and operational management for its infrastructure investments, while also acknowledging the significant impact of climate change on the construction industry. The Chinese government has issued a strong call for businesses to respect the environmental laws of the countries where they set up shop, listen to the concerns of local residents, and preserve the environment (Peerenboom, 2014).

Within the framework of SGEF, green BRI cooperation is intricately linked to the co-construction and equitable distribution of benefits associated with the BRI. Participating countries may mandate green and greening programs and provide public goods of an ecological nature. China aspires to engage in international cooperation for the development, promotion, and application of advanced environmentally friendly and environmental technologies via global collaborations, in addition to executing pilot and demonstration schemes. According to the green belt and road plan, China will mitigate climate change risks associated with infrastructure development via knowledge sharing, emphasizing collaborative initiatives (Pils, 2016).

An example is the need to initiate international and high-level dialogues, along with many thematic events, as specified in the national legislation. Additional agenda issues include the Green BRI Guidelines and its collaborative approach for systemic and environmental preservation. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), led by the nation's Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE), is currently under development

since 2018. The BRI Green Development Internationally Alliance and other ecologically focused BRI platforms are significantly indebted to this ministry as well. The Environmental Knowledge and Exchange Platform and the Green Technology Exchange and Transfer Platform provide the foundation of this Alliance, which seeks to enhance China's participation in global environmental collaboration. Conservation efforts and the BRI Big Data Service The platform for Ecological and the environment Safety provide the institutional basis for forecasting future developments. By 2020, there will be around 20 member states, with intentions to increase the number substantially in the ensuing years (Stern, 2014).

The Xi Jinping administration's global aspirations have been most evident via the implementation of the "Belt and Road Initiative" (BRI) plan. The Belt and Road Initiative was introduced by Xi Jinping in 2013. The economic and geopolitical ramifications of this multi-billion dollar mega-initiative, which has augmented China's global power under Xi, are still unfolding. The effort, which has positioned China as a significant participant in global development, serves as the foremost proof of China's expanding worldwide influence (Sun, 2020).

It aims to create an expanding web of railroads, energy pipelines and highways connecting China to parts of Central, South and Southeast Asia; the construction of about 50 special economic zones; and the construction of networks of ports linking the Pacific and Indian oceans with Europe and Africa. Moreover, In 2018 China suggested that there be an "Arctic Silk Road" be developed. They want to build a bridge to Northern Europe, across Siberia and the Arctic Ocean, linking it with China. Climate change and global warming are making that route less and less available for vessels each summer (Ji, et al., 2021).

The project is about the whole Eurasian world connection. Its aim is to build and bolster infrastructure connectivity, promote cross-border economic development collaboration and open up new market opportunities. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is a comprehensive and inspirational development initiative out in both regional and interregional dimensions. China is trying to convince other nations that through

the Belt and Road Initiative, it will bring about global prosperity by making the infrastructure investments and altering the global economy as is necessary (Ji, et al., 2021).

The program is critical for meeting basic needs, including ensuring China's access to energy resources, protecting a safe zone in the region, and facilitating new markets for Chinese goods. In the face of pressure from developed countries led by the US, Europe, Japan and Australia, in order to counter the anti-China coalition and break through the diplomatic isolation, China is forming the coalition with developing countries. This initiative is when China tries to build strong economic partnerships with developing countries. The Belt and Road Initiative is an important tool to achieve Xi's "China Dream". In this manner, the program is expected to play a pivotal role in the establishment of a China-centric system by bringing back the country's historical central status. It is an ambitious plan to build a network of transnational infrastructure projects, including energy pipelines, power plants, ports, trains and highways, to connect China with Asia, Africa and Europe. It hopes that China can diversify its energy supply amid economic stagnation, plug an oversupply of labor and building materials, create a web of economic interdependencies that will reinforce its region domination and undermine the US-alliance architecture in Asia. However, negative trade balances and debt obligations vis-a-vis a few nations could lessen the expected benefits for these countries. This situation can generate backlash to infrastructure spending progress. The endeavor, while not entirely realized, represents China's growing global economic reach and standing (Ji, et al., 2021).

4.10 China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)

The Belt and Road Initiative is intricately associated with the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, which symbolizing the strengthening alliance between China and Pakistan. The Gwadar Port, along with infrastructure and energy projects, is part of the Beijing-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which aims to facilitate trade and energy exchanges between the two countries, and is projected to receive around \$62 billion. This corridor facilitates China's direct access to the Arabian Sea, so augmenting its geopolitical influence in the area and bolstering Pakistan's economy.

Notwithstanding challenges including as local dissent and security concerns, CPEC has been lauded as a “game-changer” for economic integration and regional connectivity (Ji, et al., 2021).

Economic corridors are becoming more crucial in determining the global economic development of nations and regions. Economic actors, who are often situated in well-defined geographic regions, rely on them as their main means of communication. Economic corridors often link resource-rich growth corridors with financial hubs. Doherty (2020) stresses that economic corridors are usually created based on domestic transport system. Such networks and their infrastructures enable connectivity between core industrial sites, urban centers, and points of international access. To maintain and grow prosperity, economic corridors are necessary because they improve access to markets, boost investment and trade efficiency, and raise economic opportunities in economically depressed regions. If the world’s most developed and least developed areas are going to work together, corridors are a must. They serve as potential entry points, connecting landlocked countries to global markets via marine channels (Chen, 2018).

In terms of funding, location, and related projects, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) stands out as one of the world’s most significant infrastructure endeavors. Chinese President Xi Jinping endorsed the goal of integrating land and marine trade when the CPEC project started in 2015 as part of the BRI plan (Irshad, 2015). Fifty countries in Europe and Asia are part in the program. By funding energy and infrastructural initiatives, this initiative will help the people of these 60 countries (Chen, 2018).

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, also known as is a long-term strategic initiative spanning from 2014 to 2030, with a financial commitment of around US\$46 billion directed at Pakistan's energy and infrastructure sectors. Commencing in mid-2013 and concluding in April 2015, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was among the several projects constituting China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). This signifies the start of a new era in economic relations that have hitherto been

characterized by collaboration in security matters. A number of senior authorities in Pakistan believe that CPEC is transforming the nation's economy to better benefit its citizens. Nonetheless, there is apprehension that the inauguration of the corridor may exacerbate political and social tensions in Pakistan, as well as generate new conflict areas. The recently formed Pakistani government can mitigate these risks by enhancing transparency regarding CPEC projects, engaging all stakeholders (including smaller provinces, corporations, and civil society), and alleviating concerns that the corridor prioritizes China's interests over those of Pakistan. Beijing's interaction with local stakeholders should concentrate on the sites designated for CPEC projects in agreement with Islamabad. It should motivate Chinese firms to improve their responsiveness to local community requirements, especially with the employment of indigenous people (Chen, 2018).

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) extends 2,700 kilometers and is underpinned by a significant financial structure of loans, investments, and grants amounting to almost US\$60 billion. The route extends from the Gwadar port in Baluchistan, Pakistan, to the Kashgar prefecture in the Xinjiang area of China, passing over the Gilgit-Khunjerab Baltistan Pass. The Pakistan Economic and Development Project focuses on improving transport networks, advancing industrial sectors, developing energy resources, and the prominent Gwadar port in Baluchistan. The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government, which assumed power after the 2013 elections and ended its term on May 31, 2018, saw the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as a pivotal milestone in the nation's economic development and its bilateral ties with China. Individuals vying for national office across diverse party affiliations predominantly endorsed this position. Nevertheless, numerous high-ranking officials and distinguished Pakistani business leaders express concern regarding the inadequate protection of domestic economic interests by Chinese investors, the substantial assured returns on equities, and the onerous national debt (Chen, 2018).

It is perhaps too early to evaluate the extent to which CPEC has met Islamabad's economic obligations; however, the initiative carries the potential risk of

exacerbating longstanding tensions between the central government and smaller federal entities and provinces regarding economic development and the distribution of resources. Federal agencies, encompassing Balochistan and Sindh, argue that the corridor's alignment, infrastructure, and industrial projects would unduly favor Punjab, the country's wealthiest and most powerful province. Inhabitants possess the authority to challenge the government's appropriation of land for the agricultural projects associated with CPEC. The center devised a comprehensive long-term strategy for the CPEC (2017-2030), incorporating insights from a select cohort of local leaders, enterprises, and representatives of civil society. The perception of exploitation and neglect associated with the CPEC in Balochistan, along with the government's suppression of dissent, has exacerbated enduring protests. The lack of immediate financial advantages for the province from the Gwadar port, the key project of CPEC, has the potential to amplify local discontent in Islamabad. The plan has resulted in the construction of a strongly guarded region, which has displaced locals and taken away their economic options, instead of turning a peaceful fishing town into a busy shopping hub, as Islamabad and Beijing had promised. In the Tharparkar area of Sindh, there are coal-based power projects linked to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. These projects pose serious environmental risks, forcing local residents to flee their homes and putting their livelihoods at risk (Chen, 2018).

4.11 Pakistan's Perspective on CPEC

A multitude of scholars has sought to assess the benefits of megaprojects for countries beyond China as well as for China itself. In light of these scholarly pursuits, the Chinese government has conducted a thorough investigation and published its conclusions. A white paper released by China in August 2011 delineated a relationship designed to foster the self-development and potential of recipient nations, with the overarching goal of enhancing the lives and welfare of both populations through collaborative efforts. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor has created around two million job opportunities for local citizens of Pakistan (Chen, 2016).

Despite the differences in the political and cultural frameworks of the two nations, Pakistan has sustained long-lasting political and economic ties with China

since 1947. The present iteration of CPEC exemplifies a fruitful collaboration born from the free trade agreement established between the two nations, resulting in significant advancements in their mutual trade relations. The inception of the CPEC is anticipated to profoundly influence Pakistan in four distinct manners. This is accomplished through two distinct methods. Initially, it intensifies Pakistan's deteriorating economic circumstances by obtaining billions of dollars in Chinese investment. The investment mentality that has shaken up our society is impacted by factors such as railways, roads, communications, ports, infrastructure development, and availability of renewable energy. It has also been attracting more FDI, or foreign direct investment, to countries like China. Another perk is that it helps China expand its exports to Europe, the Middle East, and Africa, which is good for everyone involved. Gas and oil pipelines also provide a steady supply of energy for China's faltering economy. The third benefit of the CPEC is that it connects the southern and eastern parts of Asia and helps economically depressed areas in China and Pakistan along its 3,000 kilometers. According to the UNDP, CPEC would improve international commercial contacts and have an impact on China's political and economic standing. On the flip side, China and Pakistan's diplomatic relations have developed into strong economic links on a micro and macro level, which has improved understanding between the two countries (Chen, 2016).

4.12 Chinese Perspectives on CPEC

As a result of Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to Pakistan, the two countries' "all-weather strategic cooperation" was officially ended. Both countries have been able to build a cloud environment thanks to the "Strategic Partnership for All Climates," which has allowed for massive investment in a wide range of projects. China is working hard to achieve all of its objectives at the same time. Along with financial benefits, CPEC gives China land access to the Indian Ocean, giving it more political clout in central and southern Asia as a result of its economic strength (Knight, 2017).

In the future, China will be able to reach both Russia and "Greater Europe" at the same time. As a result of its significance, the BRI is now an integral part of

China's political and economic diplomacy. This dominance in economics, politics, and diplomacy has been changing the way Asia sees the world, and it has given Central Asia the ability to play its own role in the energy and geopolitical spheres. Even though the economic corridor is still in its early phases of development, China anticipates that the Uyghur population's regional economy in Xinjiang has been revitalized (Knight, 2017).

A large number of analysts and policymakers believe that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has improved bilateral relations between the two countries and aided regional and global economic growth. According to Ritzinger (2015), the CPEC strengthens China's economy by opening up more chances for transit and export. An increasing number of foreign enterprises are being encouraged by the route's reduced cost and reduced travel time to establish economic ties with China. This is particularly true for landlocked Central Asian nations like Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. It is believed that this tendency will benefit Europe and the Middle East, on the other hand. Planned elements include infrastructure for utilities, connections, industrial parks, businesses, agricultural development, information networks, tourism, poverty reduction, and improved livelihoods. The establishment of a connection between Kashgar and Gwadar via Gilgit-Baltistan and other areas of Pakistan has the potential to facilitate economic cooperation, healthcare, education, and interpersonal relations. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) connects more than 3,000 kilometers of roads and railways, giving Pakistan much-needed economic infrastructure, especially power stations (Li, & Wang, 2019).

Zhang and Shi (2016) foresee the completion of the initiative by 2030, with an estimated expenditure of around US\$46 billion. Since its completion, this project has enabled China to construct a "new economic zone" and secure access to the Indian Ocean. Numerous issues have emerged since the inception of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. Notwithstanding these hurdles, China and Pakistan remain dedicated to actively participating in the construction of the Economic Corridor. The CPEC would enable both nations to assist underprivileged areas in thriving. This

would represent a pivotal moment in the development of Western China and the poor areas of Pakistan. The first unit of Karachi's 1,320-Megawatt Port Qasim coal-fired power plant was constructed and commissioned, marking optimistic progress. In 2018, four out of six CPEC projects in Balochistan were finished, according to the Pakistan Parliamentary Research Institute's (PIPS) CPEC Watch report (Li, & Wang, 2019).

With the first phase beginning in 2018, the CPEC Long-Term Plan (LTP) identifies seven areas for collaboration in the short-, medium-, and long-term until 2030. The China-Pakistan commercial Corridor (CPEC) is expected to transform Pakistan into a regional hub for commerce and investment, necessitating the creation of several commercial and industrial zones and the improvement of transportation infrastructure between the two countries. The destiny of Pakistan is dictated by the CPEC, which has emerged as a transformative force for vital economies, regional relationships, and a driver for reciprocal growth. This is the most appealing and stimulating initiative that is poised to contribute to Pakistan's economic success in the near future (Li, & Wang, 2019).

4.13 The Wakhan Corridor

The Wakhan Corridor, a slender expanse of territory in northeastern Afghanistan, has strategic significance for China owing to its closeness to Xinjiang. Despite its physical remoteness and low population density, the corridor links Central and South Asia, presenting opportunities for commerce and cultural interaction. China's interest in the corridor is linked to its security apprehensions in Xinjiang, where it seeks to mitigate extremism and foster stability. The corridor has promise as a transit route under the BRI, hence increasing regional connectivity (Li, & Wang, 2019).

According to Al Jazeera, Mawlawi Ayub Khalid, the Taliban-appointed governor of Afghanistan's Badakhshan province, announced to the media that a road between Afghanistan and China has been constructed after five months of continuous work. The local economy is projected to see a boost as a result of this landmark.

About 40% of the 49 kilometers of the road construction section has been completed so far. There will be an even stronger direct business link between the two nations since this route is expected to extend into China's Xinjiang region in the coming years. The ancient Wakhan Corridor, which connected Afghanistan and China via the Silk Road, was first shown on maps in 1895 as a buffer zone between the Russian Empire and British India, demonstrating its ongoing geopolitical significance. Although the border between China and Afghanistan was officially defined in 1963, no border inspections were put in place, despite the fact that the two countries share a straight boundary. Tighter ties between Beijing and Kabul have historically been hindered by external factors, such as the long-term presence of U.S. and NATO forces in the country and concerns about the East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM) endangering China's national security. The strategic alliance between China and the Taliban in Afghanistan's remote Badakhshan region, especially the Wakhan Corridor, reveals China's long-term interest in the area (Li, & Wang, 2019).

Prior to the U.S. withdrawal, China strengthened its connections with Afghanistan via diplomatic and development efforts, and its engagement here shows that it was prudently preparing for a regional realignment. Taking advantage of its position at the crossroads of Afghanistan, Tajikistan, China, and Pakistan, the Chinese military and strategic presence in the Wakhan region in northern Afghanistan has been gradually increasing since 2012. A portion of a road through Wakhan and fiber optic cables were among the regional infrastructure projects in northeastern Afghanistan that received about US\$90 million in 2017 from China [1]. However, such plans were unable to advance due to the presence of U.S. soldiers, finance delays, and several political barriers. The goal of regional integration has not wavered from China, even if it has encountered certain obstacles in the past. A roadway connecting the Ishkashim district of Afghanistan with the Xinjiang province of China via the Wakhan Corridor was announced by the Taliban's Ministry of Public Works in 2021 as part of a bigger regional development project. China has poured a lot of money into regional infrastructure projects in Afghanistan since the Taliban took charge, and investments have expanded dramatically since then. A fresh emphasis on the relations between Afghanistan and China is evident in the start of construction on this crucial corridor,

which is planned to connect the two countries and serve as an important commercial and transportation route (Li, & Wang, 2019).

One of the few (potentially) bright spots for the Taliban could be The Wakhan Corridor, which is in the process of being integrated into the geopolitical landscape of Afghanistan and heavily involved in this process are China and Pakistan. According to Mohammad Karim Khuram, a former Afghan minister of information, Pakistan has previously attempted to exploit the corridor to establish strategic ties with China and Central Asia, but President Karzai opposed these efforts. When Pakistani forces, backed by Chinese forces, crossed into the Afghan side of the corridor in early 2022 to redraw the borders originally established by the Russo-British Treaty of 1895, the situation became much more dire. The decision caused a great deal of anger on Afghan social media, prompting the Taliban to send in reinforcements to redraw the country's boundaries according to their historical records. The Taliban have just made a commitment to build infrastructure in the Wakhan Corridor, with strong support from China. This shows that China wants Afghanistan to be a part of its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) (Hu, 2021b).

Strategic significance was a reason that important Taliban officials and the Chinese ambassador visited the corridor in August 2024. Ground reports suggest that the established corridor has a significant potential to promote economic activity in the region and increase export output capacity between China and Afghanistan to meet the developmental needs of adjacent areas. The Wakhan Corridor project, as a whole, serves as a part of China's global geopolitical strategy to overwhelm Afghanistan's economy and render itself as an irreplaceable trading partner, shoving away competitors, namely Iran, Uzbekistan and India, into the background. If China could avoid long, costly routes through Pakistan and Uzbekistan and reach central Asia directly, it could further strangle its economic power hold over Afghanistan. Additionally, Pakistan's long-term goal of enhancing its commercial ties with Central Asia while excluding India from the region, is in line with the initiative. The Wakhan Corridor acts as a buffer zone of security for China, protecting its sensitive region of Xinjiang. Referring to security threats posed by the East Turkestan Islamic Movement

(ETIM) and Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISKP), Beijing has moved to fortify the region around the bypass route. The measures consist of establishing a “security belt” with two security units dedicated to countering ISIS, as well as coordinated patrols with the Taliban (Hu, 2021b).

A China focused on Afghan is intent on translating these opportunities into a tangible economic presence on the ground in ways that support regional security against the turbulence of IS-Khorasan in exchange for concessions to its usage of the country’s abundant resources, of which the Amu Darya oil resources are key. Although working with the Taliban, China has not completely dispelled mutual mistrust, which makes contacts between the two sides difficult. The Wakhan Corridor project acts simultaneously as a diplomatic avenue and strategic implement to China, allowing Beijing to respond to issues present in the region as well as to forge ties through economics and geopolitics to the future of its counterpart, Afghanistan. Wakhan Corridor may have geopolitical potential as an important link over Central & South Asia to Afghanistan and maybe (over it) between China and Iran. This vision is in line with Iran’s aspirations for regional connectivity but faces pushback from India due to its border tensions with Pakistan in the Azad Kashmir region that casts a shadow over cooperative works in these programs(Hu, 2021b).

Their expansion could, in fact, alter trade routes or perhaps provide less tortuous access between East and West but also broaden China’s sway over land passing through major geopolitical fulcrums. To whom it may concern: How did all of this morph into the Wakhan Corridor, a commercial road and security buffer — a remarkable meeting of historical dreams and modern-day strategic goals that may, for some decades to come, decide the economic and political future of Central and South Asia?

After the U.S.-led withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021, China took a more rational approach towards the country. Chinese authorities saw the potential for strategic engagement with the Taliban once Western forces withdrew. In return, this helped China to revive the Mes Aynak copper mine project awarded to it in the year

2010, and several other large-scale projects like the Amu Darya oil reserves, gold extraction activities in Takhar and Badakhshan etc. While economic interests are likely to be primarily motivating this new Chinese interest in the region, they seem to be expanding to include the need for a stable security environment and geopolitical climate prevalent in the Wakhan Corridor. As a result, the Wakhan is not only a crucial location for regional observation and resolution, but also a means of accessing these invaluable resources. However, Charles Butcher the greater backdrop of the stability and security consequences of the fusion of the two states in Central and South Asia is affected by China's yet-to-be-defined role in Afghanistan, which involves improving the nation's infrastructure while also building its own influence (Hu, 2021b).

China's Xinjiang province and other troubled border areas are at risk from extremist organizations like ETIM, thus the nation has an internal incentive to take an interest in the Wahkhan Corridor. In Central Asia, an area where China has substantial investments and is aiming to establish itself as the leading economic force, this vision is in perfect harmony with China's larger objective of achieving more stability. U.S. dominance in Eurasia, especially in counterterrorism and force projection, is threatened by China's increasing presence in the Wakhan Corridor, which is a major worry for the US. Growing collaboration between Beijing and Kabul raises concerns that U.S. strategic interests in the area might be threatened, therefore Washington closely monitors China's influence in Afghanistan. A broader geopolitical contest for influence in Central and South Asia is at the heart of this evolving relationship. China's strategic maneuvers have the potential to undermine American long-term goals in regional security and diplomatic engagement (Hu, 2021b).

The Wakhan Corridor's advantageous topography allows for the construction of a commercial and energy corridor connecting China with Central Asia; this route would reduce the distance that pipelines must travel while also boosting China's energy security. Achieving the goals of this program would further establish China as the dominant economic and military force in the area. The intersection of China's economic and security objectives provides a double-edged sword for the country,

allowing it to meet its energy needs while simultaneously addressing regional security threats. So, the Wakhan Corridor becomes a solid Chinese foothold, which will probably strengthen the regional order in favor of China's interests. This order will govern the economic connections and security dynamics in Central and South Asia for the next several years (Hu, 2021b).

4.15 Role of Countries in Chinese Economic Transition

The remarkable evolution of China into a global powerhouse has been greatly shaped by its relationships with multitudes of countries, and each country in the mix has played a part in fostering China's growth and development. Such ties have empowered China's export-centered economy, technological advancement, the modernization of industries and energy security. For China the United States has been an important commercial partner as the main destination for Chinese goods, an important source of foreign investment. Despite the trade disputes and economic rivalry ongoing, the US market has been vital to China's export-oriented growth. Providing advanced equipment and technology, Germany has played a major role in China's economic modernization and in helping China upgrade its manufacturing capabilities and industrial foundation. Investment and technology transfer from Japan played an essential role in China's technological development (Hu, 2021b).

Japanese companies have offered technological expertise in everything from electronics and automobile manufacture to precision engineering, key pillars of China's economic revival. Like Japan, South Korea is a major supplier of semiconductors and electronic components, and it has been instrumental in bolstering China's burgeoning electronics and technology industries by providing a stable source of inputs. India is a significant market for Chinese products such as electronics and manufacturing, despite an unequal trade relationship. The two populous nations' bilateral trade highlights China's dependence on a small number of markets for which it exports. At the same time, Russia has turned its energy cooperation with China into a pillar that consolidates pots of energy balance, so that are stable oil and gas supplies are the conditions of China's industry and home energy needs (Hu, 2021b).

A key component of One Belt and One Road, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and regional connectivity and trade make Pakistan a pivotal ally in South Asia. Military coordination is cementing the ties, making Pakistan a near-perfect partner in China's geopolitical designs. Also similar, Australia has always provided critical minerals and energy resources like coal and iron ore to China's industrial development and urbanization through switches of political parties. The ties with China highlight its reliance on agricultural imports, with Brazil remaining a key provider of soybeans and other essential commodities to maintain China's food security and animal operations. Saudi Arabia has continued at the forefront of energy supply with its strategic relations in the region, especially with China, by sustaining the stock of energy, particularly, crude oil as China's economy expands rapidly. Together, these partnerships created China's economic path, giving it the means to broaden its resource base, enhance technical capacity, and continue development in the face of international constraints. In fact, this complex web of foreign engagement demonstrates the key role of global interdependence in China's economy (Hu, 2021b).

CHAPTER 5

5. CHINA'S INFLUENCE ON GLOBAL ECONOMY

5.1 Chinese Economic Boom and Global Markets

The extraordinary economic expansion of China in the last forty years has profoundly transformed the structure of the global economy. Since the initiation of market-oriented reforms in 1978, China has transitioned from a closed, centrally planned economy to a more market-driven structure, yielding sustained high growth rates that have elevated hundreds of millions from poverty. Researchers like Naughton (2018) and Brandt & Rawski (2019) emphasize that China's economic change is marked by export-driven industrialization, extensive infrastructure expansion, and assertive integration into global markets. This "economic miracle" has positioned China as the world's foremost exporter and a pivotal hub in global supply networks. The extent of its influence is seen in its supremacy in industries such as electronics, steel, rare earth metals, and textiles. China's entry into the World Trade Organization in 2001 significantly accelerated its global economic integration, granting it improved access to international markets and facilitating its emergence as a key trade partner for both developed and developing countries.

Research also highlights how China's rapid economic ascent has redefined the global demand for commodities. According to studies by Garnaut and Song (2020), the surge in China's industrial output led to massive increases in the demand for oil, copper, iron ore, and other raw materials, fundamentally altering commodity prices and resource flows. Additionally, China's growing middle class—now numbering over 400 million—has become a key driver of global consumer demand, particularly in luxury goods, automobiles, and tourism. Its role as a capital exporter has expanded through the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), launched in 2013, which aims to create a vast infrastructure and trade network spanning Asia, Africa, and Europe. Scholars like Hillman (2020) and Hurley, Morris, and Portelance (2018) argue that through the BRI, China not only exports capital and infrastructure but also strategically positions itself as a leader in regional economic development and soft power diplomacy. Furthermore, China's rising technological capability—particularly in digital finance, e-commerce,

and green energy—has begun to shift innovation hubs from traditional Western centers to new Asian frontiers, challenging existing technological hierarchies. In this context, China’s economic boom is not merely a regional phenomenon but a transformative force with structural implications for the entire global economic system.

5.2 China Challenge to Conventional World

Beyond economic indicators, China’s ascent represents a profound ideological and strategic challenge to the liberal international order dominated by the West since World War II. While the post-war order was built on principles of open markets, democratic governance, and multilateralism—mainly shaped by U.S. leadership—China’s rise introduces an alternative governance model rooted in authoritarian capitalism, strong state intervention, and centralized political control. Termed the “Beijing Consensus” by Ramo (2004), this model contrasts with the “Washington Consensus” by deprioritizing liberal political reforms in favor of economic pragmatism, long-term planning, and social stability. This framework has found appeal among authoritarian and developing regimes seeking growth without the pressures of democratization. Scholars such as Allison (2017) and Ikenberry (2020) point out that China’s growing influence represents not only a redistribution of economic power but also a systemic challenge to the norms and institutions that define the existing global order.

China has endeavored to reform international governance frameworks by augmenting its participation in established entities such as the United Nations, World Trade Organization, and International Monetary Fund, while concurrently establishing new organizations including the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), the New Development Bank (NDB), and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). These projects, albeit collaborative, are often seen as tools of Chinese influence, offering alternatives to Western-led financial and policy structures. Moreover, China’s proactive use of economic instruments such as currency swaps, trade restrictions, and investment diplomacy has established it as a potent force capable of using economic prowess for geopolitical advantages. The advancement of its digital and technology sectors, especially in 5G infrastructure (Huawei), e-commerce

(Alibaba), artificial intelligence research, and renewable energy technologies, has raised apprehensions in the West about data sovereignty, national security, and the global technological competition. Analysts such as Shambaugh (2021) contend that China's aspirations extend beyond economic interests to include leadership in global norm-setting, especially in digital governance, cyber security, and trade regulations.

Additionally, the concept of a “dual circulation economy” introduced in recent years further signals China's intent to reduce dependency on foreign markets while strengthening domestic innovation and consumption, reflecting a more self-reliant and strategically autonomous global posture. As geopolitical tensions rise particularly with the U.S., China's global challenge is not limited to material competition but extends to a deeper ideological and institutional rivalry. Its growing partnerships with countries in Africa, Latin America, and Southeast Asia, often through non-conditional investment, reflect a new kind of geopolitical alignment that bypasses traditional Western-dominated alliances and reshapes the global political economy. Consequently, China's ascent marks a pivotal juncture in international relations, signaling a transition from a unipolar to a more multipolar or even contested global order.

5.3 China's Influence on the Global Economy

The coming year will need fine-tuning of monetary and fiscal policy around the world to allow for a soft landing, bringing inflation down but still positive progress. Many central bankers face the daunting task of figuring out when and how much to cut interest rates based on statistics. They cannot seek guidance from elsewhere, since rates of disinflation and growth are diverging across countries (Berring, 2004).

The next year will provide considerable problems for fiscal authorities in many countries, as they must implement consolidation to alleviate debt and replenish reserves while simultaneously financing the digital and green transformations of their economy. The global economy has shown significant resilience to recent disruptions. This resilience principally arises from robust macroeconomic fundamentals in most advanced and emerging market countries, coupled with strong consumer and

government spending. Labor markets have shown resilience, and supply chains have achieved stabilization (Berring, 2004).

Consequently, despite elevated global interest rates, we anticipate GDP above 3 percent this year and the next. Although inflation remains over goal in several nations, we see a continued decline. The situation in Asia is more complex, since inflation has not escalated to the same extent as in other regions and is decreasing more rapidly. As a result, interest rates have remained quite stable. In the short term, we project global growth to be about 3 percent, which is below historical standards; the annual average during the pre-COVID decade was 3.8 percent. Inadequate productivity growth and high debt levels raise worries for everybody, especially for rising and developing countries. Geopolitical tensions affect trade and financial flows, which have been crucial determinants of wealth in recent decades. The advantageous element is that the digital and green revolutions provide opportunities to improve productivity growth and raise living standards. Extensive structural enhancements might foster an atmosphere conducive to entrepreneurship, innovation, and economic prosperity (Berring, 2004).

5.4 China – A New Era of High-Quality Growth

In 2023, China had a strong post-Covid rebound, with growth above five percent. In the medium term, China will continue to be a major contributor to global economic growth. Despite the impediments posed by sluggish productivity growth and an aging demographic, substantial opportunities remain. China has a pivotal decision: to rely on historically successful policies or to adapt its methods for a new era of high-quality growth (Berring, 2004). Our research suggests that, with a comprehensive set of pro-market reforms, China might see markedly increased growth relative to a status quo scenario. This incremental gain would represent a 20 percent enhancement of the real GDP over the next 15 years, amounting to an addition of US\$ 3.5 trillion to the Chinese economy in contemporary terms (Berring, 2004).

5.4.1 What are the Ingredients of Such a Package of Reforms?

Decades of significant progress in China have greatly enhanced living conditions and established adequate governmental measures to address its most pressing current issues. These include transitioning the real estate sector towards a more sustainable framework and alleviating local government debt issues. Overcoming these challenges is essential for a smooth transition to a new stage of enhanced growth. Our research suggests that enacting definitive strategies to reduce the stock of unfinished homes and permitting more flexibility for market-driven modifications in the real estate sector might accelerate the resolution of current challenges and bolster consumer and investor confidence (Zhang, 2016).

An essential trait of robust growth is a heightened reliance on domestic spending. Accomplishing this depends on augmenting the buying power of individuals and households. China's social security system covers a greater population than any other globally. Nonetheless, there is an opportunity to amplify its impact and improve benefits—consider strengthening the pension system in a fiscally responsible way. Domestic consumption relies on income growth, which is influenced by the productivity of capital and labor. Reforms designed to improve the economic environment and provide fair conditions for both private and state-owned enterprises will maximize capital distribution. Investments in human capital, particularly in education, ongoing training, and deskilling, coupled with superior healthcare, will enhance worker productivity and raise incomes (Zhang, 2016).

This is especially significant as China aims to capitalize on the potential presented by the AI “big bang.” The preparation of nations for the realm of artificial intelligence is no longer a future objective; it is a current concern. The IMF has pinpointed four essential domains for nations’ AI readiness: the internet of things, human capital and labor sectors, innovation, and governance and ethics. Our data indicates that China leads developing economies in AI preparation, supported by advanced digital infrastructure that offers a competitive advantage. Developing a comprehensive AI legal framework and enhancing commercial relations with other creative nations would enable China to advance significantly (Zhang, 2016).

Likewise, China has significant potential for promoting the green economy. It is now the world leader in the implementation of renewable energy and is advancing swiftly in green transportation. Its sustained leadership is essential for tackling the global climate catastrophe. Enhancing the sale of a larger proportion of power at market pricing, based on recent advancements, will significantly improve the efficiency of China's decarbonization efforts. Extending the emissions trading system's scope to the industrial sector would also be beneficial.

The impending shift is arduous. China's extraordinary developmental achievements have provided significant advantages to hundreds of millions of individuals. The younger generations, having spent their whole lives in an atmosphere characterized by very high growth rates, are encountering a phenomenon previously witnessed by many nations as economies age and growth stabilizes (Zhang, 2016).

This shift from elevated rates to superior growth quality is the appropriate path to pursue, and China is resolute in its commitment to this direction. The administration acknowledges that high-quality development fundamentally relies on changes. The IMF is dedicated to being a partner in this effort, facilitated by our continuous policy discourse and collaborative learning (Zhang, 2016).

5.4.2 Working Together Delivers for All

Global collaboration is crucial in addressing these difficulties that disproportionately affect the most marginalized individuals within our international society. The international community convenes at the IMF to address challenges, and we appreciate China's ongoing support for our initiatives (Zhang, 2016). China has augmented the IMF's financial resources via contribution to our concessional loan vehicle for low-income nations, the newly established Resilience and Biodiversity Facility, and our strengthening capacities programs. China has shown exceptional leadership in facilitating the agreement to augment the IMF's permanent resources by 50 percent. We acknowledge China's significant contribution to mitigating financial emergencies in emerging and emerging economies. Numerous nations are facing or approaching economic challenges, necessitating substantial measures from creditors to

expedite debt alleviation, and we anticipate China's ongoing robust involvement. With the vigor, assurance, and opportunity of the dragon and a revitalized commitment to global collaboration—China and the international community can together tackle current issues, promoting an improved tomorrow for everyone (Zhang, 2016).

5.5 Chinese Economic Boom and Global Markets

China's economic rise has profoundly shaped the global economy, transforming international patterns of trade, investment and markets. In the past few decades, the pace of industrialization, technological development, and macroeconomic reform has transformed China into the world's second-largest economy. This enormous growth not only lifted millions out of poverty at home, but it also established China as a critical player in the global economic system (Zhang, 2016).

China's economic growth is closely connected to its role as a factory and top supplier of commodities. China dominates international supply chains, offering cheap goods in industries like electronics, machinery, textiles, and consumer goods. Its robust infrastructure, historically cheap labor and efficient manufacturing networks made it the “factory of the world,” influencing pricing levels and consumer behavior around the world. At the same time, China has opened up powerful economic channels through its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) to insert itself into global markets. By investing in infrastructure projects in Asia, Africa, Europe and everywhere in between, China is not just carving trade routes connecting it to new market — it is inserting itself as an indispensable partner for many of the world's new states, too. These initiatives enable Beijing to obtain resources, increase trade relations, and create economic dependence that enhances its geopolitical power (Zhang, 2016).

China is the home market for a key engine to global economic growth. With over 1.4 billion residents and a growing middle class, China has become one of the world's largest consumer markets. To them China is a major market for their products and services; its status as a globe grazing trendsetter is as important for its designer goods as it is for global tech industry corporate strategy. Also, China has driven its economy through its economic strategy (technology + green energy programs) to the

cutting edge of growing markets, for instance, electric cars; renewable energy, and artificial intelligence. And its competitive edge in these arenas not only opens up new global economic opportunities — it also challenges traditional superpowers like the United States and Europe, redrawing the balance of economic power on the global stage (Zhang, 2016).

In the past few decades, China's phenomenal economic growth has altered the global economic landscape. China transformed from a predominantly agrarian economy at the turn of the century to the world's second largest economy by achieving industrialization at breakneck speed, accelerated urbanization and aggressive materialization of technology innovations. This economic boon has had a huge impact on the global markets. By exporting everything from electronics to equipment, textiles, and medications, China has become the number 1 exporter in the world ahead of all others. China played a large role in various global trade networks, creating interdependencies with other countries around the world that rely on China for their manufacturing and supply chain needs. Moreover, China's sizeable consumer market, buoyed by an expanding middle class, has drawn substantial overseas investment, with multinational firms vying to capture the spending potential of its people. Through programs like the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which finances construction projects in Asia, Africa, and Europe, it has projected its economic power alongside trading partners while supporting its own presence in world markets (Zou, & Han, 2021).

The economic revolution in China which had begun at the end of the last century as a result of 1978 declaring of economic reform has transformed the global market. Following the compound crises of 1978, China started a transition from a heavily centralized economy to a market-oriented system that propelled extraordinary growth and permitted China to become the second-largest economy in the world. Industrialization, export-oriented manufacturing, foreign direct investment (FDI) and modernization are the engines responsible for this growth. Emerging from this process, as China became embedded in the global economy, China emerged as a central force in global trade, supply chains, and financial markets. Its status as the "world's factory" has made it a leading exporter of goods, and its vast consumer market has made it a

major importer as well, whose business is shaping global demand and prices for resources, energy and consumer goods. This spurred multinationals and competition on the international markets, especially in the fields of technology, infrastructure and renewable energy. But China's economic expansion has also encountered daunting problems. Socio-economic tensions arising from trade imbalances, intellectual property rights and access to markets have brought strain with some of its leading trading partners, particularly the United States (Zou, & Han, 2021).

As a result, China is already changing the configuration of both geopolitical and economic conditions through its growing presence in global institutions and through its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), and poses both challenges and opportunities for the rest of the world. Scholars have noted that the growth of China's economy has held mixed meanings for world markets, functioning simultaneously as an engine of globalization and one of economic disruption. While China's growth has been primarily responsible for making the world wealthier by providing lower cost production and larger markets to commercial enterprises, it has also raised concerns around sustainability, ecological risk factors, and the need for equitable growth. Markigal, along with Scott: 2005: "The Globalization of China" However, in the long run, until the division of the world into two great[substantiated more than abstract] economies, the emergence of the Chinese economy has drastically reshaped the architecture of the world economy, writing in new halls of the stage on which new inquiry and policy discourse are taking place in the twenty-first century (Garrick, & Bennett, 2016).

Its expansion has transformed the global economy, reconfiguring trade, investment trends, and national economic perspectives. Since initiating market reforms in 1978, China has seen rapid growth, industrialization, and urbanization, elevating hundreds of millions from poverty and establishing a consumer class with substantial buying power. This economic expansion positioned China as a pivotal element in global supply chains, especially within the industrial, electronics, and textile industries. The supply has exerted lower pressure on global pricing by making development cost-competitive for manufacturer's worldwide, benefiting consumers

universally while adversely affecting enterprises in richer nations. Moreover, China's entry into the World economic Organization (WTO) in 2001 signified a pivotal moment for the emerging power, significantly augmenting its capacity to export products and its global economic impact.

In addition to trade, China's foreign investments, especially through initiatives such as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), have enhanced its economic influence by funding infrastructure projects throughout Asia, Africa, and Europe; however, these investments have also sparked concerns regarding debt dependency and geopolitical expansion. Final Assessment the Chinese economic boom is very significant for global financial markets. As China's financial sector has liberalized, its stock and bond markets have gained significance for international investors and as factors influencing global capital flows. China's economic model, characterized by significant state intervention and reliance on debt for development, has faced increasing criticism over its financial instabilities and long-term viability. The environmental degradation and resource exhaustion resulting from China's rapid industrialization ignited worldwide discussions over the ecological costs of economic advancement. Recent discourse on China's economic ascent has evolved to encompass the multifaceted repercussions of this phenomenon, including its influence on global inequality, labor markets, and technological innovation. Concurrently, research examining China's effect on global capitalism has proliferated in recent years. The first decades of China's economic development were crucial to the global economy, but addressing the new challenges arising from this economic boom is as significant; hence, the link involves both intricate problem-solving and vigorous economic growth (He, 2021).

5.6 China's Challenge to Conventional Norms

China, a rising power, has disrupted the global economic order. Global financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank have upheld an economic order based on principles of liberal capitalism that were created and dominated by the West. Another way to view economic development is through China's state-dominated model, combining market liberalization with a big

role for the government. This approach has gained traction among some emerging economies, eager to emulate China's success and unwilling to conform entirely to Western economic dogma. And China's increasing technical sophistication in fields including artificial intelligence, 5G telecommunications and renewable energy threatens to eclipse established global innovators. And through its policies from its vast investments into renewable energy and technology to what could be its normalization of state capitalism China has altered the conversation on what constitutes sustainability and economic growth. The success is by overwhelming international organizations and forums, such as the AIIB and BRICS, multilateral institutions with major importance for China, in which China changes global governance and the focus from justice and equality to where we want to go in globalization. In doing so, through these transformative adjustments to access and registration, China is not only creating new global market but also encouraging new norms and standards for practice at the same time, directly engaged in the creation of the international economic order, contesting the status quo and allowing an as of yet, undefined multipolarity in the world economy (Hu, 2021a).

China's rise as a global economic superpower has challenged prevailing norms in international governance, trade and finance. The world economy has long been shaped most profoundly by Western liberalism, marked by free markets, democratic government and entities like the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Trade Organization (WTO). China has managed to arrange a model of state-led capitalism that combines methods of market-oriented with exercise of centralized power and yield a full-fledged alternative framework, which is upending global economic geopolitics (Liu, & Li, 2019).

A state-driven economic plan is at odds with traditional laissez-faire economics. China does retain significant government engagement in important sectors (e.g., tech, energy, infrastructure) through favorable policies for SOEs and strategic industries. This approach enables China to quickly mobilize resources and implement long-term economic strategies, which has produced efficiencies and results that can be starkly different from market-driven nations. That matters, card-carrying establishment

members—this divergence violates the Western story about how liberal economic policies are the only game in town for growth and progress (Peerenboom, 2014).

China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is a demonstration of its challenge to conventional standards of global commerce and investment. China offers a development alternative by financing infrastructure projects and common goods for underdeveloped countries directly by circumventing Western governance systems led by the World Bank. These investments bolster its economic ties and clout while bypassing conventional pathways that are set by criteria like transparency, environmental standards and democratic reforms (Pils, 2016).

China seeks to supplant American-centric norms in international financial systems with projects such as the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and the internationalization of the yuan. Such initiatives aim to reduce reliance on the U.S. currency and promote a multipolar financial system, reflecting China's desire to reshape the framework of the world economy. So too its dominance in emerging industries like renewable energy, 5G technology and artificial intelligence positions China as a challenger to Western technological supremacy, deepening the tilt in global financial clout. Moreover, China's diplomatic and economic approaches tend to challenge Western priorities in human rights and governance standards. Nurturing links based on shared economic interest rather than political alignment, Chinese foreign policy entices states that may resist Western demands for democratic transformation and, in turn, creates an alternative paradigm of international relations. By these activities, China not only asserts its economic dominance but also reconfigures the rules and standards of the global economic framework. This alternative governance, trade, and development strategy indicates a transition to a more multi-polar world, contesting entrenched Western supremacy and redefining the future of globalization (Stern, 2014).

5.6.1 Justification for Using a Mixed-Methods Approach (Qualitative + Quantitative)

This study adopts a mixed-methods research design, combining both quantitative and qualitative approaches to provide a comprehensive understanding of China's economic modernization under Xi Jinping's leadership. The rationale for employing both methods stems from the multifaceted nature of modernization, which encompasses not only economic transformation but also institutional, political, and ideological change. Relying on a single method would limit the scope and depth of the analysis.

The quantitative component of the study involves the analysis of economic indicators such as GDP growth, foreign direct investment (FDI), export ratios, urbanization rates, technological investments, and renewable energy capacity. Statistical tools including mean, standard deviation, t-test, and ANOVA were applied to secondary data obtained from credible sources such as the National Bureau of Statistics of China, World Bank, IMF, and official policy documents. These quantitative analyses allow for objective measurement of trends and comparisons across different time periods (pre-Xi and post-Xi eras) and regions (e.g., coastal vs. inland provinces), helping to assess the tangible progress of modernization in economic terms.

The qualitative component complements the numerical data by exploring the political thought, governance strategy, institutional transformation, and societal impact of modernization efforts. To gather rich contextual insights, semi-structured interviews were conducted with a total of 10 participants, carefully selected for their expertise and strategic positions. The interviewees included:

Table No 5.1: Sampling table

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 policy analysts affiliated with Chinese research institutes focusing on governance and development.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 academic scholars specializing in Chinese political economy and modernization theory.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 senior government officials involved in regional economic planning and policy execution.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 economists and development consultants working with international think

tanks and multilateral agencies.

These interviews provided firsthand insights into the institutional logic, challenges, and adaptive mechanisms shaping China’s modernization. Their narratives also offered critical perspectives on how Xi Jinping’s ideological vision has influenced strategic decisions, regulatory frameworks, and international posturing.

Thematic analysis of these interviews guided by modernization theory allowed the study to identify patterns of institutional evolution, ideological shifts, and governance trends that are not quantifiable but are nonetheless crucial to understanding China’s modernization trajectory. The qualitative data also helped highlight non-linear developments, such as setbacks, contradictions, and reforms within reforms.

By integrating both methods, this study achieves triangulation, enhancing the validity and reliability of findings. Quantitative data anchors the study in empirical measurement, while qualitative insights bring depth and context. This dual approach is particularly valuable when examining a complex and dynamic phenomenon like China’s modernization, ensuring that both statistical progress and strategic intent are captured and analyzed holistically.

Table: 5.2: Summary of Participants in the Mixed-Methods Study

Approach	Participant Type	Number of Participants	Role/Designation
Quantitative	Thematic analysis via Modernization theory		(During the era of economic reform and liberalization that started Xi Jinping’s initiatives.)
Qualitative	Policy Analysts	3	Experts from Chinese research institutes focused on governance and development
	Academic Scholars	2	Professors and researchers in political economy and modernization studies
	Senior Government Officials	2	Regional policymakers involved in economic planning

Approach	Participant Type	Number of Participants	Role/Designation
	Economists and Development Consultants	3	Professionals from international think tanks and development agencies
Total (N)		10	

5.7 Quantitative Analysis (Research Questionnaire)

Table no 5.3: Xi Jinping’s Governance has Improved China’s Economic Structure.

Response	F	%	Mean	SD	t-test	p-value
Strongly Disagree	20	20.0	21.3	11.12	0.89	0.985
Disagree	26	26.0				
Neutral	25	25.0				
Agree	18	18.0				
Strongly Agree	11	11.0				

Table 5.3 summarizes responses to the statement “Xi Jinping’s governance has improved China’s economic structure,” with 20% strongly disagreeing, 26% disagreeing, 25% remaining neutral, 18% agreeing, and 11% strongly agreeing. The mean response is 21.3 (indicating disagreement overall), with a standard deviation of 11.12, suggesting moderate variation in opinions. The t-test value is 0.89, and the p-value of 0.985 indicates no statistically significant difference from the neutral point.

Table no 5.4: State-Owned Enterprises (Soes) Play A Larger and More Effective Role Under Xi Jinping.

Response	F	%	Mean	SD	t-test	p-value
Strongly Disagree	24	24.0	13.18	11.58	0.32	0.752
Disagree	15	15.0				
Neutral	14	14.0				
Agree	18	18.0				
Strongly Agree	29	29.0				

Table 5.4 presents responses to the statement “State-owned enterprises (SOEs) play a larger and more effective role under Xi Jinping.” The distribution shows 24% strongly disagreeing, 15% disagreeing, 14% remaining neutral, 18% agreeing, and 29% strongly agreeing. The mean score is 13.18, indicating a slight agreement overall, with a standard deviation of 11.58, reflecting substantial variation in opinions. The t-test value is 0.32, and the p-value of 0.752 suggests no statistically significant deviation from neutrality.

Table no 5.6: The principle of ‘Common Prosperity’ Aligns Well with Global Market Economy Principles.

Response	F	%	Mean	SD	t-test	p-value
Strongly Disagree	20	20.0	13.12	11.53	0.07	0.946
Disagree	20	20.0				
Neutral	12	12.0				
Agree	25	25.0				
Strongly Agree	23	23.0				

Table 5.6 evaluates responses to the statement “The principle of ‘common prosperity’ aligns well with global market economy principles.” Among respondents, 20% strongly disagree, 20% disagree, 12% are neutral, 25% agree, and 23% strongly agree. The mean response is 13.12, suggesting a slight leaning towards agreement, with a standard deviation of 11.53, indicating moderate variability in opinions. The t-test value of 0.07 and p-value of 0.946 indicate no statistically significant difference from neutrality.

Table no 5.7: The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) Effectively Drives Economic Decision-Making Under Xi Jinping.

Response	F	%	Mean	SD	t-test	p-value
Strongly Disagree	16	16.0	13.06	11.46	-0.51	0.613
Disagree	19	19.0				
Neutral	22	22.0				
Agree	22	22.0				
Strongly Agree	21	21.0				

Table 5.7 examines responses to the statement “The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) effectively drives economic decision-making under Xi Jinping.” The results show 16% strongly disagree, 19% disagree, 22% are neutral, 22% agree, and 21% strongly agree. The mean score is 13.06, indicating a neutral to slightly positive view overall, with a standard deviation of 11.46, showing moderate variation in responses. The t-test value of -0.51 and p-value of 0.613 suggest no statistically significant deviation from neutrality.

Table no 5.8: China has Reduced its Dependence On Foreign Investments Under Xi Jinping’s Leadership.

Response	F	%	Mean	SD	t-test	p-value
Strongly Disagree	27	27.0	12.78	11.40	-0.56	0.578
Disagree	12	12.0				
Neutral	25	25.0				
Agree	20	20.0				
Strongly Agree	16	16.0				

Table 5.8 summarizes responses to the statement “China has reduced its dependence on foreign investments under Xi Jinping’s leadership.” A total of 27% strongly disagree, 12% disagree, 25% are neutral, 20% agree, and 16% strongly agree. The mean score of 12.78 indicates a slight leaning towards disagreement, with a standard deviation of 11.40 showing moderate variability. The t-test value of -0.56 and p-value of 0.578 suggest no significant deviation from neutrality.

Table no 5.9: Technological Advancements in China are as Significant as Those in Market-Driven Economies.

Response	F	%	Mean	SD	t-test	p-value
Strongly Disagree	19	19.0	12.94	11.39	-0.49	0.627
Disagree	22	22.0				
Neutral	20	20.0				
Agree	17	17.0				
Strongly Agree	22	22.0				

Table 5.9 presents responses to the statement “Technological advancements in China are as significant as those in market-driven economies.” The results show 19% strongly disagree, 22% disagree, 20% are neutral, 17% agree, and 22% strongly agree. The mean score is 12.94, indicating a neutral to slightly negative leaning, with a standard deviation of 11.39 showing moderate variability. The t-test value of -0.49 and p-value of 0.627 suggest no significant deviation from neutrality.

Table no 5.10: Xi Jinping’s Policies Effectively Balance Social Welfare with Economic Growth.

Response	f	%	Mean	SD	t-test	p-value
Strongly Disagree	18	18.0	13.08	11.35	-0.14	0.888
Disagree	19	19.0				
Neutral	19	19.0				
Agree	23	23.0				
Strongly Agree	21	21.0				

Table 5.10 summarizes responses to the statement “Xi Jinping’s policies effectively balance social welfare with economic growth.” Among respondents, 18% strongly disagree, 19% disagree, 19% are neutral, 23% agree, and 21% strongly agree. The mean score is 13.08, reflecting a neutral to slightly positive leaning, with a standard deviation of 11.35 indicating moderate variability. The t-test value of -0.14 and p-value of 0.888 suggest no statistically significant deviation from neutrality.

Table no 5.11: Economic Inequality in China Has Decreased under Xi Jinping’s Governance.

Response	F	%	Mean	SD	t-test	p-value
Strongly Disagree	20	20.0	12.92	11.38	-0.35	0.729
Disagree	22	22.0				
Neutral	20	20.0				
Agree	17	17.0				
Strongly Agree	21	21.0				

Table 5.11 evaluates responses to the statement “Economic inequality in China has decreased under Xi Jinping’s governance.” The data shows that 20% strongly disagree, 22% disagree, 20% are neutral, 17% agree, and 21% strongly agree. The mean score of 12.92 indicates a neutral to slightly negative leaning, with a standard deviation of 11.38 showing moderate variability. The t-test value of -0.35 and p-value of 0.729 indicate no statistically significant deviation from neutrality.

Table no 5.12: The Chinese Government’s Involvement in the Economy is More Effective than in Western Economies.

Response	F	%	Mean	SD	t-test	p-value
Strongly Disagree	27	27.0	13.0	11.52	0.58	0.561
Disagree	19	19.0				
Neutral	12	12.0				
Agree	20	20.0				
Strongly Agree	22	22.0				

Table 4.12 presents responses to the statement “The Chinese government’s involvement in the economy is more effective than in Western economies.” The results show 27% strongly disagree, 19% disagree, 12% are neutral, 20% agree, and 22% strongly agree. The mean score of 13.0 reflects a neutral stance overall, with a standard deviation of 11.52 indicating moderate variability. The t-test value of 0.58 and p-value of 0.561 suggest no statistically significant deviation from neutrality.

Table no 5.13: China’s Economic Growth Model under Xi Jinping Is Sustainable for the Long Term.

Response	f	%	Mean	SD	t-test	p-value
Strongly Disagree	19	19.0	13.32	11.31	1.75	0.083
Disagree	16	16.0				
Neutral	21	21.0				
Agree	26	26.0				
Strongly Agree	18	18.0				

Table 5.13 evaluates responses to the statement “China’s economic growth model under Xi Jinping is sustainable for the long term.” The results show that 19% strongly disagree, 16% disagree, 21% are neutral, 26% agree, and 18% strongly agree. The

mean score of 13.32 indicates a leaning towards agreement, with a standard deviation of 11.31 reflecting moderate variability in opinions. The t-test value of 1.75 and p-value of 0.083 suggest a trend toward significance but do not conclusively indicate a statistically significant deviation from neutrality.

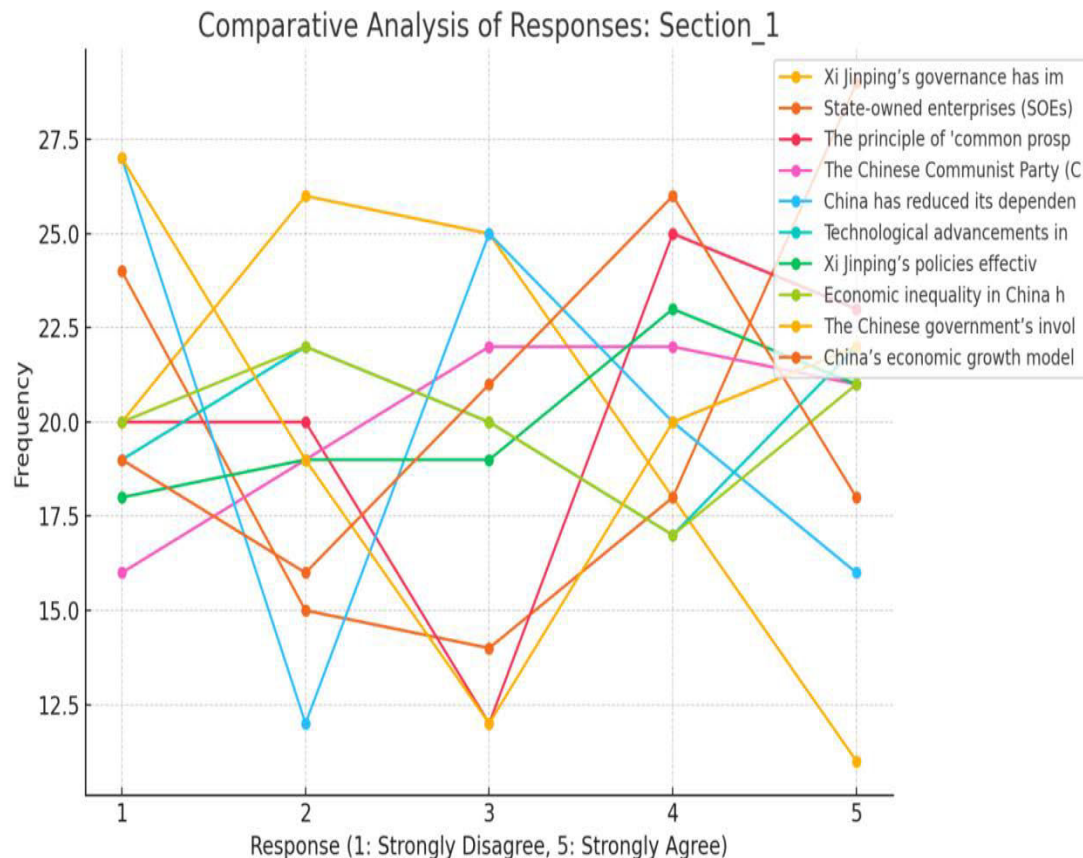


Figure 5.1: Comparative analysis of responses

Table no 5.14: The Belt and Road Initiative Has Strengthened China's Global Influence.

Response	F	%	Mean	SD	t-test	p-value
Strongly Disagree	19	19.0	12.82	11.59	1.15	0.088
Disagree	23	23.0				
Neutral	16	16.0				
Agree	22	22.0				
Strongly Agree	20	20.0				

Table 5.14 presents responses to the statement “The Belt and Road Initiative has strengthened China’s global influence.” The distribution shows 19% strongly disagree, 23% disagree, 16% are neutral, 22% agree, and 20% strongly agree. The mean score of 12.82 indicates a slight leaning towards disagreement, with a standard deviation of 11.59 showing considerable variability in opinions. The t-test value of 1.15 and p-value of 0.088 suggest a trend toward significance but do not confirm a statistically significant deviation from neutrality.

Table no 5.15: China’s Advancements in Technology Enhance Its Global Standing.

Response	F	%	Mean	SD	t-test	p-value
Strongly Disagree	26	26.0	12.74	11.47	1.11	0.079
Disagree	19	19.0				
Neutral	17	17.0				
Agree	21	21.0				
Strongly Agree	17	17.0				

Table 5.15 evaluates responses to the statement “China’s advancements in technology enhance its global standing.” Among respondents, 26% strongly disagree, 19% disagree, 17% are neutral, 21% agree, and 17% strongly agree. The mean score of 12.74 suggests a leaning towards disagreement, with a standard deviation of 11.47 reflecting moderate variability. The t-test value of 1.11 and p-value of 0.079 indicate a trend toward significance but do not establish a statistically significant deviation from neutrality.

Table no 5.16: Xi Jinping’s Strategies Have Increased China’s Influence in International Organizations.

Response	F	%	Mean	SD	t-test	p-value
Strongly Disagree	18	18.0	13.14	11.39	1.001	0.095
Disagree	22	22.0				
Neutral	26	26.0				
Agree	14	14.0				
Strongly Agree	20	20.0				

Table 5.16 summarizes responses to the statement “Xi Jinping’s strategies have increased China’s influence in international organizations.” The results show 18% strongly disagree, 22% disagree, 26% are neutral, 14% agree, and 20% strongly agree.

The mean score of 13.14 suggests a neutral to slightly positive leaning, with a standard deviation of 11.39 indicating moderate variability. The t-test value of 1.001 and p-value of 0.095 indicate a trend toward significance but do not confirm a statistically significant deviation from neutrality.

Table no 5.17: China’s Economic Policies Challenge U.S. Dominance in Global Affairs.

Response	F	%	Mean	SD	t-test	p-value
Strongly Disagree	22	22.0	12.72	11.36	1.20	0.087
Disagree	19	19.0				
Neutral	26	26.0				
Agree	14	14.0				
Strongly Agree	19	19.0				

Table 5.17 examines responses to the statement “China’s economic policies challenge U.S. dominance in global affairs.” The data reveals that 22% strongly disagree, 19% disagree, 26% are neutral, 14% agree, and 19% strongly agree. The mean score of 12.72 indicates a slight leaning towards disagreement, with a standard deviation of 11.36 showing moderate variability. The t-test value of 1.20 and p-value of 0.087 suggest a trend toward significance but do not confirm a statistically significant deviation from neutrality.

Table no 5.18: China has Reshaped Global Trade Norms under Xi Jinping’s Leadership.

Response	F	%	Mean	SD	t-test	p-value
Strongly Disagree	23	23.0	13.14	11.44	1.52	0.053
Disagree	15	15.0				
Neutral	18	18.0				
Agree	19	19.0				
Strongly Agree	25	25.0				

Table 5.18 evaluates responses to the statement “China has reshaped global trade norms under Xi Jinping’s leadership.” The responses indicate that 23% strongly disagree, 15% disagree, 18% are neutral, 19% agree, and 25% strongly agree. The mean score of 13.14 reflects a neutral to slightly positive leaning, with a standard deviation of 11.44 showing moderate variability. The t-test value of 1.52 and p-value of

0.053 suggest a trend toward significance but do not conclusively confirm a statistically significant deviation from neutrality.

Table no 5.19: China's Cooperation with Developing Nations Has Grown Stronger under Xi Jinping.

Response	F	%	Mean	SD	t-test	p-value
Strongly Disagree	21	21.0	13.0	11.37	1.52	0.059
Disagree	18	18.0				
Neutral	21	21.0				
Agree	19	19.0				
Strongly Agree	21	21.0				

Table 5.19 presents responses to the statement “China’s cooperation with developing nations has grown stronger under Xi Jinping.” The results show 21% strongly disagree, 18% disagree, 21% are neutral, 19% agree, and 21% strongly agree. The mean score of 13.0 reflects a neutral stance overall, with a standard deviation of 11.37 indicating moderate variability. The t-test value of 1.52 and p-value of 0.059 suggest a trend toward significance but fall short of confirming a statistically significant deviation from neutrality.

Table no 5.20: China Has Become More Central to Global Supply Chains Due To Xi Jinping's Policies.

Response	F	%	Mean	SD	t-test	p-value
Strongly Disagree	20	20.0	12.88	11.38	1.05	0.057
Disagree	23	23.0				
Neutral	20	20.0				
Agree	20	20.0				
Strongly Agree	17	17.0				

Table 5.20 evaluates responses to the statement “China has become more central to global supply chains due to Xi Jinping’s policies.” The data shows that 20% strongly disagree, 23% disagree, 20% are neutral, 20% agree, and 17% strongly agree. The mean score of 12.88 indicates a slight leaning towards disagreement, with a standard deviation of 11.38 showing moderate variability. The t-test value of 1.05 and p-value of 0.057 suggest a trend toward significance but do not confirm a statistically significant deviation from neutrality.

Table no 5.21: Partnerships with Countries like Brics Nations Have Shifted the Global Power Balance in China’s Favor.

Response	F	%	Mean	SD	t-test	p-value
Strongly Disagree	19	19.0	13.08	11.54	1.58	0.077
Disagree	23	23.0				
Neutral	20	20.0				
Agree	15	15.0				
Strongly Agree	23	23.0				

Table 4.21 examines responses to the statement “Partnerships with countries like BRICS nations have shifted the global power balance in China’s favor.” The results show 19% strongly disagree, 23% disagree, 20% are neutral, 15% agree, and 23% strongly agree. The mean score of 13.08 suggests a neutral to slightly positive leaning, with a standard deviation of 11.54 indicating moderate variability. The t-test value of 1.58 and p-value of 0.077 indicate a trend toward significance but do not confirm a statistically significant deviation from neutrality.

Table no 5.22: Xi Jinping’s Economic Policies Have Promoted Regional Economic Integration in Asia.

Response	F	%	Mean	SD	t-test	p-value
Strongly Disagree	20	20.0	13.06	11.39	1.10	0.026
Disagree	23	23.0				
Neutral	13	13.0				
Agree	24	24.0				
Strongly Agree	20	20.0				

Table 4.22 evaluates responses to the statement “Xi Jinping’s economic policies have promoted regional economic integration in Asia.” The results show 20% strongly disagree, 23% disagree, 13% are neutral, 24% agree, and 20% strongly agree. The mean score of 3.06 indicates a neutral to slightly positive leaning, with a standard deviation of 11.39 showing moderate variability. The t-test value of 1.10 and p-value of 0.026 suggest a statistically significant deviation from neutrality, indicating a positive perception of the policies’ impact on regional economic integration.

Table no 5.23: China's Global Image and Soft Power Have Improved under Xi Jinping.

Response	F	%	Mean	SD	t-test	p-value
Strongly Disagree	17	17.0	12.98	11.52	1.51	0.072
Disagree	26	26.0				
Neutral	12	12.0				
Agree	22	22.0				
Strongly Agree	23	23.0				

Table 4.23 summarizes responses to the statement “China’s global image and soft power have improved under Xi Jinping.” The data reveals that 17% strongly disagree, 26% disagree, 12% are neutral, 22% agree, and 23% strongly agree. The mean score of 12.98 suggests a neutral to slightly negative leaning, with a standard deviation of 11.52 reflecting moderate variability. The t-test value of 1.51 and p-value of 0.072 indicate a trend toward significance but do not confirm a statistically significant deviation from neutrality.

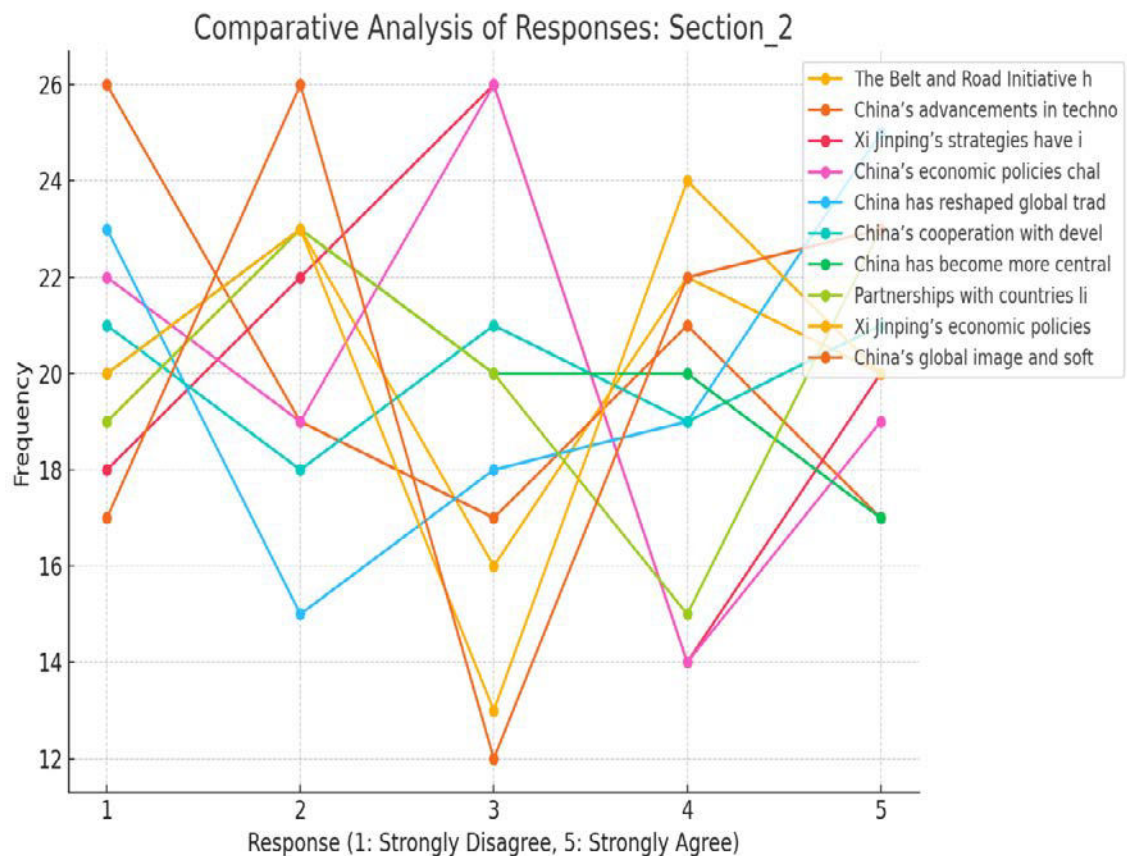


Figure 5.2: Comparative Analysis of Responses

Table no 5.24: China is A Significant Contributor to Global GDP Growth Under Xi Jinping.

Response	F	%	Mean	SD	t-test	p-value
Strongly Disagree	19	19.0	13.14	11.47	1.20	0.083
Disagree	18	18.0				
Neutral	17	17.0				
Agree	24	24.0				
Strongly Agree	22	22.0				

Table 5.24 evaluates responses to the statement “China is a significant contributor to global GDP growth under Xi Jinping.” The results indicate that 19% strongly disagree, 18% disagree, 17% are neutral, 24% agree, and 22% strongly agree. The mean score of 13.14 reflects a neutral to slightly positive leaning, with a standard deviation of 11.47 indicating moderate variability. The t-test value of 1.20 and p-value of 0.083 suggest a trend toward significance but do not confirm a statistically significant deviation from neutrality.

Table no 5.25: Modern China has influenced the Global Technology Landscape.

Response	F	%	Mean	SD	t-test	p-value
Strongly Disagree	25	25.0	13.02	11.48	1.75	0.083
Disagree	18	18.0				
Neutral	17	17.0				
Agree	20	20.0				
Strongly Agree	20	20.0				

Table 5.25 examines responses to the statement “Modern China has influenced the global technology landscape.” The results show 25% strongly disagree, 18% disagree, 17% are neutral, 20% agree, and 20% strongly agree. The mean score of 13.02 suggests a neutral to slightly positive leaning, with a standard deviation of 11.48 reflecting moderate variability. The t-test value of 1.75 and p-value of 0.083 indicate a trend toward significance but do not confirm a statistically significant deviation from neutrality.

Table no 5.26: China's Role as a Manufacturing Hub Drives Global Economic Trends.

Response	F	%	Mean	SD	t-test	p-value
Strongly Disagree	26	26.0	13.1	11.49	1.11	0.083
Disagree	17	17.0				
Neutral	15	15.0				
Agree	19	19.0				
Strongly Agree	23	23.0				

Table 5.26 evaluates responses to the statement “China’s role as a manufacturing hub drives global economic trends.” The data shows that 26% strongly disagree, 17% disagree, 15% are neutral, 19% agree, and 23% strongly agree. The mean score of 13.1 reflects a neutral to slightly positive leaning, with a standard deviation of 11.49 indicating moderate variability. The t-test value of 1.11 and p-value of 0.083 suggest a trend toward significance but do not confirm a statistically significant deviation from neutrality.

Table no 5.27: China's Trade Policies Have Had a Positive Impact on Global Trade Dynamics.

Response	F	%	Mean	SD	t-test	p-value
Strongly Disagree	23	23.0	13.04	11.37	1.08	0.065
Disagree	23	23.0				
Neutral	14	14.0				
Agree	21	21.0				
Strongly Agree	19	19.0				

Table 5.27 examines responses to the statement “China’s trade policies have had a positive impact on global trade dynamics.” The results show that 23% strongly disagree, 23% disagree, 14% are neutral, 21% agree, and 19% strongly agree. The mean score of 13.04 suggests a neutral to slightly positive leaning, with a standard deviation of 11.37 indicating moderate variability. The t-test value of 1.08 and p-value of 0.065 indicate a trend toward significance but do not confirm a statistically significant deviation from neutrality.

Table no 5.28: China's Energy Consumption and Policies Affect Global Energy Markets.

Response	F	%	Mean	SD	t-test	p-value
Strongly Disagree	12	12.0	13.24	11.19	1.77	0.059
Disagree	19	19.0				
Neutral	22	22.0				
Agree	34	34.0				
Strongly Agree	13	13.0				

Table 5.28 evaluates responses to the statement “China’s energy consumption and policies affect global energy markets.” The results show 12% strongly disagree, 19% disagree, 22% are neutral, 34% agree, and 13% strongly agree. The mean score of 13.24 indicates a leaning toward agreement, with a standard deviation of 11.19 reflecting moderate variability. The t-test value of 1.77 and p-value of 0.059 suggest a trend toward significance but do not conclusively establish a statistically significant deviation from neutrality.

Table no 5.29: Xi Jinping’s financial policies attract global investments.

Response	F	%	Mean	SD	t-test	p-value
Strongly Disagree	20	20.0	13.3	11.47	1.08	0.061
Disagree	17	17.0				
Neutral	21	21.0				
Agree	18	18.0				
Strongly Agree	24	24.0				

Table 5.29 summarizes responses to the statement “Xi Jinping’s financial policies attract global investments.” The data indicates that 20% strongly disagree, 17% disagree, 21% are neutral, 18% agree, and 24% strongly agree. The mean score of 13.3 suggests a slight leaning towards agreement, with a standard deviation of 11.47 reflecting moderate variability. The t-test value of 1.08 and p-value of 0.061 indicate a trend toward significance but do not confirm a statistically significant deviation from neutrality.

Table no 5.30: Modern China Plays A Key Role In Global Efforts To Address Climate Change.

Response	F	%	Mean	SD	t-test	p-value
Strongly Disagree	18	18.0	12.96	11.37	1.59	0.065

Disagree	15	15.0
Neutral	24	24.0
Agree	24	24.0
Strongly Agree	19	19.0

Table 5.30 examines responses to the statement “Modern China plays a key role in global efforts to address climate change.” The data reveals that 18% strongly disagree, 15% disagree, 24% are neutral, 24% agree, and 19% strongly agree. The mean score of 12.96 indicates a neutral to slightly negative leaning, with a standard deviation of 11.37 showing moderate variability. The t-test value of 1.59 and p-value of 0.065 suggest a trend toward significance but do not confirm a statistically significant deviation from neutrality.

Table no 5.31: China’s Digital Currency Initiatives Are Shaping Global Financial Systems.

Response	F	%	Mean	SD	t-test	p-value
Strongly Disagree	27	27.0	12.64	11.51	1.05	0.022
Disagree	16	16.0				
Neutral	18	18.0				
Agree	23	23.0				
Strongly Agree	16	16.0				

Table 5.31 evaluates responses to the statement “China’s digital currency initiatives are shaping global financial systems.” The results indicate that 27% strongly disagree, 16% disagree, 18% are neutral, 23% agree, and 16% strongly agree. The mean score of 12.64 suggests a leaning towards disagreement, with a standard deviation of 11.51 reflecting moderate variability. The t-test value of 1.05 and p-value of 0.022 indicate a statistically significant deviation from neutrality, highlighting perceptions of influence from these initiatives.

Table no 5.29: The rise of China’s Middle Class Has Impacted Global Consumer Markets.

Response	F	%	Mean	SD	t-test	p-value
Strongly Disagree	15	15.0	13.34	11.45	1.75	0.083
Disagree	21	21.0				
Neutral	19	19.0				
Agree	20	20.0				

Strongly Agree 25 25.0

Table 4.29 examines responses to the statement “The rise of China’s middle class has impacted global consumer markets.” The data shows that 15% strongly disagree, 21% disagree, 19% are neutral, 20% agree, and 25% strongly agree. The mean score of 13.34 reflects a slight leaning towards agreement, with a standard deviation of 11.45 indicating moderate variability. The t-test value of 1.75 and p-value of 0.083 suggest a trend toward significance but do not confirm a statistically significant deviation from neutrality.

Table no 5.32: China’s Economic Rise Presents Both Opportunities and Challenges to the Global Economy.

Response	F	%	Mean	SD	t-test	p-value
Strongly Disagree	18	18.0	13.14	11.4	1.008	0.091
Disagree	19	19.0				
Neutral	19	19.0				
Agree	21	21.0				
Strongly Agree	23	23.0				

Table 5.32 evaluates responses to the statement “China’s economic rise presents both opportunities and challenges to the global economy.” The results show that 18% strongly disagree, 19% disagree, 19% are neutral, 21% agree, and 23% strongly agree. The mean score of 13.14 suggests a neutral to slightly positive leaning, with a standard deviation of 11.4 reflecting moderate variability. The t-test value of 1.008 and p-value of 0.091 indicate a trend toward significance but do not confirm a statistically significant deviation from neutrality.

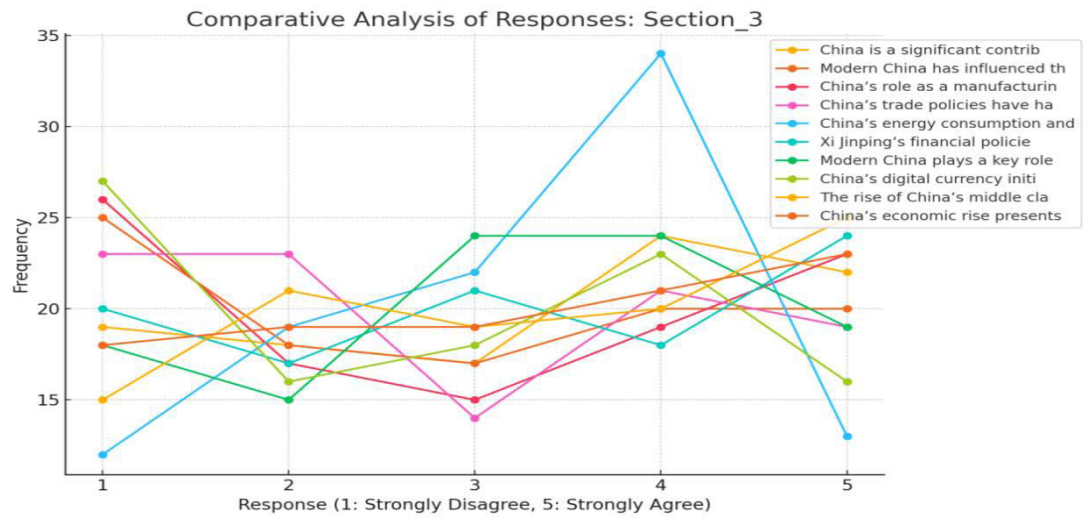


Figure 5.3: Comparative analysis of Responses

Table No 5.33: ANOVA Test Results for Research Objectives

Research Objective	Male Mean (Avg)	Female Mean (Avg)	Male SD (Avg)	Female SD (Avg)	F-Statistic (Avg)	P-Value
1. To analyze the current Chinese model under Xi Jinping as compared to the market economy.	12.97	13.04	11.41	11.45	1.78	0.578
2. To analyze how Xi Jinping's modernized China model has shifted the balance of power globally.	12.96	13.0	11.44	11.42	0.66	0.537
3. To find out the impact of modern China on the global economy.	13.09	12.99	11.42	11.43	0.91	0.442

Table 5.33 presents the ANOVA test results comparing male and female respondents' perceptions of the research objectives. For the first objective, analyzing the Chinese model under Xi Jinping, the male mean score is 12.97, and the female mean is 13.04, with no significant difference ($F = 1.78$, $p = 0.578$). For the second objective, assessing how China's model has shifted the global power balance, the male mean is 12.96, and the female mean is 13.00, again showing no significant difference ($F = 0.66$, $p = 0.537$). The third objective, examining the impact of modern China on the global economy, has a male mean of 13.09 and a female mean of 12.99, with no significant difference ($F = 0.91$, $p = 0.442$). These results suggest no significant gender-based differences in responses across all research objectives.

5.8 Qualitative Analysis

Table no 5.34: Thematic Analysis: Qualitative Approach

Objective	Theme	Respondent Insights
Objective 1	Role of SOEs in Economic Transformation	Ambassadors emphasized SOEs' strategic role; Federal Ministers saw them reducing disparities; Deans and Professors highlighted efficiency issues but praised economic stabilization; Foreign Experts noted soft power implications.
Objective 1	Implementation of 'Common Prosperity'	Ambassadors pointed to poverty reduction; Ministers cited redistributive policies; Academics emphasized inequality gaps remaining despite progress.
Objective 1	Impact of Leadership	Ambassadors saw increased global confidence in China; Ministers noted cautious yet increasing foreign

	Foreign Investments	investment inflows; Experts discussed market access constraints.
Objective 1	Balance Between Social Welfare and Economic Growth	Deans discussed China's balance mechanisms; Ministers highlighted prioritizing growth over welfare; Foreign Experts praised global sustainability efforts.
Objective 2	Challenging U.S. Global Dominance	Ambassadors framed China's strategy as cooperative, Ministers and Experts noted it challenges U.S. influence through trade alliances.
Objective 2	Strengthening Ties with Developing Nations	Ministers and Deans highlighted deepening partnerships with Africa and Asia; Professors discussed geopolitical impacts.
Objective 2	Effect on Global Supply Chains	Foreign Experts linked China's supply chain control to global dependence; Ministers highlighted resilience during COVID-19.
Objective 2	Regional Integration and Global Influence	Deans highlighted ASEAN partnerships enhancing China's soft power; Professors linked regional leadership to global influence.
Objective 3	Technological Innovation and Global Markets	Ambassadors discussed China's tech hubs reshaping industries; Experts emphasized market disruption and competition.
Objective 3	Manufacturing Hub and Global Economy	Ministers cited job creation via exports; Experts analyzed ripple effects on emerging economies.
Objective 3	Shaping Global Trade Dynamics	Deans highlighted tariffs and trade routes; Experts discussed China's Belt and Road's global trade effect.
Objective 3	Opportunities and Challenges of Economic Rise	Ambassadors framed opportunities for developing nations; Professors highlighted global reliance and associated vulnerabilities.

Table 5.34 presents a thematic analysis of respondent insights aligned with three research objectives. For Objective 1, respondents highlighted the strategic role of SOEs in economic transformation, mixed progress in implementing “Common Prosperity,” increased global confidence in China’s leadership despite market access constraints, and debates over prioritizing social welfare versus economic growth. For Objective 2, China’s actions were seen as cooperative yet challenging U.S. dominance, strengthening ties with developing nations, influencing global supply chains, and enhancing regional integration to boost global influence. For Objective 3, respondents

emphasized China’s technological innovations disrupting global markets, its role as a manufacturing hub creating ripple effects on emerging economies, its shaping of global trade through the Belt and Road Initiative, and the opportunities and vulnerabilities stemming from its economic rise.

5.9 Research Questions Analysis

Table no 5.35: Qualitative Research Analysis

Question	Themes	Key Insights
1. How different is the current modern model of China under Xi Jinping from the market economy?	['Role of State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs)', 'Implementation of "Common Prosperity"', 'Balance Between Social Welfare and Economic Growth']	China’s current model emphasizes centralized control through SOEs, a focus on equitable wealth distribution ('Common Prosperity'), and balancing growth with social welfare. Ambassadors and ministers highlight strategic state-led initiatives, while academics point out inefficiencies and private sector concerns.
2. How has Xi Jinping’s modernized China model shifted the global balance of power?	['Challenging U.S. Global Dominance', 'Strengthening Ties with Developing Nations', 'Regional Integration in Asia']	Xi Jinping’s policies enhance China’s influence by challenging U.S. dominance, deepening ties with developing nations, and fostering regional integration through initiatives like RCEP. Respondents emphasize economic alliances and soft power strategies.
3. What is the impact of modern China on the global economy?	['Technological Innovation', 'Global Manufacturing Hub', 'Shaping Global Trade Dynamics']	China’s technological advancements, manufacturing capabilities, and trade policies reshape global markets. Opportunities for collaboration exist alongside concerns about economic dependence and global trade imbalances.

Table 5.35 summarizes the qualitative analysis of three key research questions. For Question 1, China’s modern model under Xi Jinping emphasizes centralized control through SOEs, equitable wealth distribution via “Common Prosperity,” and balancing growth with social welfare, with strategic state-led initiatives praised but inefficiencies noted. For Question 2, Xi Jinping’s policies shift the global power balance by challenging U.S. dominance, strengthening ties with developing nations, and enhancing

regional integration, focusing on economic alliances and soft power. For Question 3, China's technological innovation, manufacturing dominance, and trade policies reshape global markets, offering collaboration opportunities but raising concerns about dependence and trade imbalances.

5.10 Application of Theoretical Frame Work on Results:

The present research will be based on modernization theory. **Daniel Lerner** coined the term modernization. Whereas, Modernization theory finds its origin in the ideas of Max Weber and Talcott Parson. Modernization theory will be applied to this research as the factors of economic transition, social development, social transition and political structures.

5.10.1 Modernization Theory and Its Application to China

Modernization theory posits that societies evolve through a set of progressive stages from traditional to modern forms. This theoretical model gained prominence in the mid-20th century, proposing that economic development, technological advancement, industrialization, and institutional transformation drive nations toward modernity. While initially rooted in Western experience, the theory has been extensively adapted to non-Western contexts, including China, where it finds a unique manifestation under the leadership of Xi Jinping.

In the Chinese context, modernization theory has served as a guiding lens to understand and analyze its strategic economic transformation since the late 1970s. However, China's path has not followed a purely linear or Western-centric model. Instead, it reflects a hybrid modernization pathway that fuses state capitalism, Confucian cultural values, socialist political structures, and dynamic global integration. Under Xi Jinping's leadership, modernization has been redefined to include not only material and technological growth but also social governance, environmental sustainability, and ideological consolidation. The stages of China's modernization reflect evolving institutional frameworks, political reforms, and economic adaptation, each marked by distinctive achievements and complex challenges.

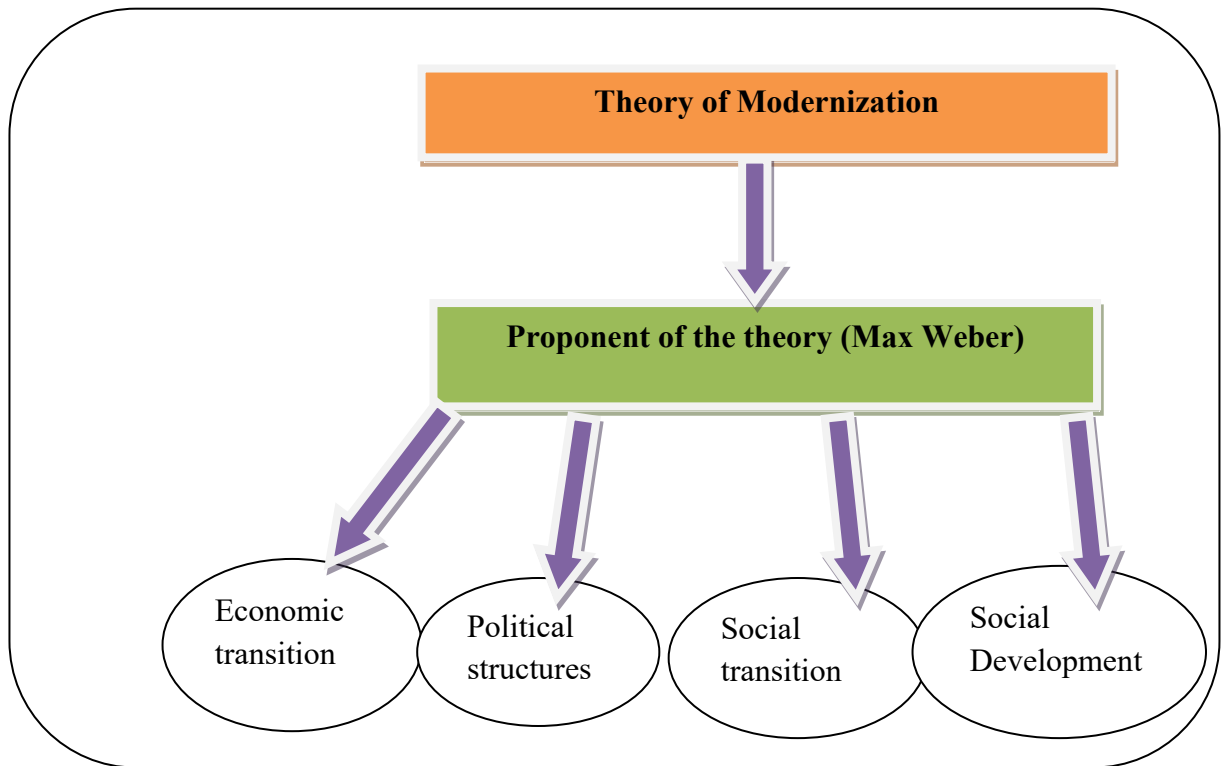


Figure no 5.4: Conceived by the Researcher Based on the Comparative Studies in Society and History, Vol. 15, No. 2 (Mar. 1973), pp. 199-226

The inception of modernization theory may be attributed to the post-World War II period. As it fundamentally started the process of modernization. Modernization theory is a developmental framework that emerged in the 1950s and 1960s, positing that economic growth and advancement in emerging nations may be attained via industrialization, urbanization, and other modernization processes. Modernization theory posits that developing nations may attain economic growth and development via the adoption of contemporary technology, the enhancement of educational and healthcare systems, the cultivation of a market economy, and the formation of democratic political frameworks. The notion posits that all cultures will ultimately evolve similarly and that modernization is an inherent and beneficial process.

Modernization theory has historically been applied to China, especially during the economic reform and opening-up era that began in the late 1970s. The Chinese

government implemented several policies and practices advocated by modernization theory, including the enhancement of education and healthcare systems, the establishment of a market economy, and the integration of contemporary technology. Rostow proposed a model of economic development delineating five distinct phases. The five phases include traditional society, preconditions for takeoff, takeoff, drive to maturity, and era of high mass consumption (Pelanda, 2018). Xi Jinping's initiatives have propelled China into the fifth stage of economic development (Pils, 2015). Nonetheless, China's distinct cultural, social, and historical backdrop has significantly influenced its developmental trajectory, and the government has enacted policies that embody these elements as well.

5.11 SWOT Analysis of Modern China under Xi Jinping's Leadership

5.11.1 Strengths

Under Xi Jinping's leadership, China has emerged as a formidable global power, marked by several internal and external strengths. One of the most notable strengths is China's consistent and resilient economic growth. Despite global economic fluctuations, China has maintained an average GDP growth rate of around 6% up to 2023, underpinned by strong industrial output and state-led economic planning. Additionally, China has become a technological powerhouse, leading the world in areas such as 5G networks, artificial intelligence, quantum computing, and green technologies. It has also spearheaded the development of digital currency with the introduction of the e-CNY. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has further expanded China's strategic global presence, connecting Asia, Africa, and Europe through massive infrastructure investments. State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) continue to play a vital role in executing long-term national goals, ensuring stability and control. Furthermore, China's commitment to infrastructure development is reflected in its expansive high-speed rail network, advanced port facilities, and the rapid growth of smart cities. These developments enhance both domestic mobility and global connectivity. Through its active participation in multilateral platforms such as BRICS, SCO, and ASEAN, China continues to shape global economic and political norms. (Qiao, & Zhang, 2021).

5.11.2 Weaknesses

Despite its remarkable progress, China faces several internal weaknesses that challenge the sustainability of its modernization journey. A major issue is the growing economic inequality, which remains deeply embedded in the rural-urban divide. Rural populations have limited access to quality education, healthcare, and employment opportunities, resulting in stark disparities in income and living standards. This undermines the national vision of “common prosperity.” Additionally, China’s overdependence on an export-driven economic model exposes it to global market volatility and external shocks, such as trade wars and declining demand in Western economies. Environmental degradation is another critical weakness. Despite investments in renewable energy, China continues to be the world’s largest emitter of greenhouse gases, with pollution, resource depletion, and biodiversity loss threatening long-term sustainability. Demographic challenges further complicate the picture; the legacy of the one-child policy has created an aging population, increasing the dependency ratio and placing significant pressure on the healthcare and pension systems. Another structural weakness is the lack of policy predictability and regulatory transparency. Crackdowns on the tech sector, education industry, and real estate market have created uncertainty, discouraging foreign investment and stifling private enterprise. Moreover, China’s global image has been tarnished by concerns over human rights violations in Xinjiang, the suppression of dissent in Hong Kong, and digital surveillance practices, all of which contribute to increasing international isolation. Technological bottlenecks in core sectors like semiconductor manufacturing also expose vulnerabilities in China’s ambition for self-reliance and innovation leadership (Ren, & Xiao, 2021).

5.11.3 Opportunities

China stands at the cusp of numerous opportunities that could further accelerate its modernization process. One of the most promising areas is technological innovation, particularly in the development of artificial intelligence, robotics, green energy, and domestic semiconductor production. China’s emphasis on achieving self-sufficiency in critical technologies has sparked massive investments in research and development. The Belt and Road Initiative and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) present significant opportunities for expanding China’s

geopolitical and economic footprint by strengthening trade and infrastructure partnerships with countries across Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Domestically, the rise of a large and increasingly affluent middle class is driving demand in sectors such as healthcare, education, and consumer services, providing an internal engine for sustainable growth. Furthermore, China's leadership in renewable energy and its commitment to achieving carbon neutrality by 2060 open doors for global collaboration and technological advancement in climate change mitigation. Innovations in fintech, blockchain, and the digital yuan (e-CNY) also position China to redefine global financial systems and reduce its reliance on Western-led institutions. These interconnected opportunities offer China the potential to move beyond manufacturing and exports toward a more balanced, innovation-driven, and consumption-led economic model. (Ye, 2020).

5.11.4 Threats

Alongside its opportunities, China faces a range of serious external and internal threats that could undermine its modernization efforts. Chief among these is the intensifying geopolitical rivalry with the United States and its allies. Ongoing tensions over Taiwan, the South China Sea, and technology access—often described as a “tech cold war”—pose strategic and economic risks. Trade restrictions and embargoes on advanced chips and technologies have already exposed China's vulnerability in global value chains. Moreover, the global trend of supply chain diversification, accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic and geopolitical instability, has led multinational corporations to adopt a “China plus one” strategy, shifting production to countries like Vietnam, India, and Mexico. Domestically, the economy is weighed down by mounting debt in the corporate, household, and local government sectors, raising fears of financial instability, especially within the real estate market. China's global image has also suffered due to diplomatic assertiveness, commonly labeled as “wolf warrior diplomacy,” which has strained relations with many Western countries. International scrutiny over issues like digital surveillance, cyber security, and human rights abuses has resulted in sanctions and limited market access for Chinese tech firms. Environmental threats are no less significant. The impacts of climate change, such as extreme weather events, pose serious risks to agriculture,

infrastructure, and public health. Moreover, the global pressure on China to accelerate its decarbonization process may clash with its current development models and industrial priorities. These overlapping threats highlight the complex and volatile environment in which China's modernization process is unfolding (Zhang, 2021).

Table 5.34: SWOT Matrix: China's Economic Modernization under Xi Jinping's Leadership

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Sustained high GDP growth □ Global leadership in 5G, AI, green tech, and digital currency □ Strategic influence via Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and multilateral platforms (BRICS, ASEAN, SCO) □ Strong domestic infrastructure (high-speed rail, smart cities) □ State-driven economic planning and efficient SOEs □ Rapid urbanization and internal/external connectivity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Growing income inequality (rural-urban divide) □ Over-reliance on exports and vulnerability to trade wars □ Environmental degradation and high carbon emissions □ Aging population and rising social security burden □ Regulatory uncertainty affecting private sector and foreign investors □ Human rights concerns and international image issues □ Technological gaps in foundational R&D and semiconductor self-sufficiency
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Technological innovation in AI, robotics, semiconductors □ Expansion through BRI and RCEP □ Rising middle class driving domestic consumption □ Leadership in renewable energy and carbon neutrality □ Growth in fintech, blockchain, and digital yuan (e-CNY) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Intensifying geopolitical tensions with the U.S. and allies □ Global supply chain diversification (China+1 strategy) □ High debt levels (corporate, household, local government) □ Sanctions and access restrictions on Chinese tech firms □ Environmental and climate risks (floods, heatwaves, resource depletion)

Strengths	Weaknesses
□ Opportunities for global leadership in climate diplomacy	□ Diplomatic isolation and negative global perception due to aggressive foreign policy ("wolf warrior diplomacy").

Table 5.35 SWOT Matrix: China's Economic Modernization under Xi Jinping's Leadership

Opportunities	Threats
□ Technological innovation in AI, robotics, semiconductors	□ Intensifying geopolitical tensions with the U.S. and allies
□ Expansion through BRI and RCEP	□ Global supply chain diversification (China+1 strategy)
□ Rising middle class driving domestic consumption	□ High debt levels (corporate, household, local government)
□ Leadership in renewable energy and carbon neutrality	□ Sanctions and access restrictions on Chinese tech firms.
□ Growth in fintech, blockchain, and digital yuan (e-CNY)	□ Environmental and climate risks (floods, heatwaves, resource depletion).
□ Opportunities for global leadership in climate diplomacy	□ Diplomatic isolation and negative global perception due to aggressive foreign policy ("wolf warrior diplomacy").

5.12 Application of Modernization Theory to SWOT Analysis Results

Modernization theory, stemming from the scholarly works of Max Weber and Talcott Parsons, elucidates the multifaceted economic, social, and political transformations that underpin Xi Jinping's China. This theory gives primacy to economic development, social change, and the construction of political institutions to modernize states. Findings from the SWOT analysis are consistent with important elements of the modernization theory; these are:

5.12.1 Economic Transition

Modernization theory emphasizes the shift from traditional to industrial economies. It recognizes China's transformative economic growth, bolstered by state-run models and initiatives such as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), as indicative of

its maturation into a globally connected, industrialized economy. The modernization trajectory of the country can be illustrated through its strengths such as technological leadership, robust infrastructure, and increased global influence. Weaknesses such as excessive reliance on export-triggered growth and regulatory ambivalence demonstrate the hurdles to establishing a stable, progressive economic architecture. As such, modernization theory also allows for this observation of China's continued drive toward modernization through the digital economy and investments in renewable energy (Zhang, 2016).

5.12.2 Social Development

The theory emphasizes the concomitant social transition of economic modernization. China's strengths and opportunities: The push for "Common Prosperity" aligns with efforts to reduce economic inequality, enhance its middle class. But sweat economic disparity and an aging population to be sustainable development there are also social challenges, which is also worth our attention. Along with the opportunities mentioned in the theory, the emergence of China's middle class weaves together with the theory's belief that social mobility arises from a fluid economy and leads to consumer markets fuelling further modernization (Zhang, & Dai, 2019).

5.12.3 Political Structures

Modernization theory posits that strong political institutions are critical for economic and social change. The impetus of a state-led Chinese economic model—integrating the people through State Owned Enterprise (SOEs) centralization—reflects the Chinese framework of modernization and modernization management. As pointed out by the SWOT analysis, political stability and strategic planning have enabled China to maintain a balance between social welfare and economic development. But the likes of regulatory uncertainty and tightening scrutiny on private enterprise highlight where modernization efforts are running into headwinds or inefficiencies. Modernization theory is validated by China's emerging impact on the world political structures (e.g. BRICS, ASEAN): their growing influence is an evidence of China's

modernization expressed on the both domestic and international levels (Zhou, & Feng, 2019).

5.12.4 Global Integration and Influence

The implications of China's efforts to modernize have been dramatic on a global scale and demonstrate the interconnectedness predicted by modernization theory in the globalized world in which it exists. Technological leadership, global partnerships, and manufacturing dominance are among much strength that showcase China's integration into global economic systems. Yet threats such as geopolitical strife, global supply chain disruptions, and technological backlash highlight the difficulties modernization encounters in a highly competitive and interdependent world (Wei, 2018).

A SWOT analysis that applies modernization theory shows that China is in the stages of modernization as characterized by their economic transition, their social change, and their political transitions. In sum, there are elements of the country's impressive modernization of its economy and society, but inequality, environmental sustainability, and regulatory limitations stress that the modernization process remains a work in progress. This theoretical perspective highlights China's dual identity as a modernizing country and a leading agent of global modernization, and in such ambivalence, China faces challenges that come with opportunities and threats in the process of development (Dicey, 1961).

5.13 Stage-Wise Application of Modernization Theory in China

5.13.1 Stage 1: Traditional Agricultural Economy (1949–1978)

In the first phase, China was primarily a traditional, agrarian society governed by centralized Marxist ideologies. After the Communist Revolution in 1949, Mao Zedong's regime emphasized land reforms, rural collectivization, and self-sufficiency. While these policies laid the groundwork for national unity and ideological transformation, they also resulted in catastrophic failures such as the Great Leap Forward (1958–1962), which led to famine and millions of deaths.

Institutionally, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) was the central actor, eliminating feudal hierarchies and promoting egalitarianism. However, the absence of market mechanisms, technological stagnation, and the suppression of private enterprise hindered economic growth. The Cultural Revolution (1966–1976) further disrupted educational institutions, bureaucratic expertise, and scientific progress. Hence, the first stage illustrates a modernization attempt driven more by ideology than economic pragmatism, resulting in severe institutional instability and social trauma.

5.13.2 Stage 2: Economic Reform and Opening Up (1978–1992)

This period marks a significant turning point under Deng Xiaoping, who launched the policy of "Reform and Opening Up" in 1978. China began transitioning from a command economy to a mixed socialist-market economy. Agricultural decollectivization, township and village enterprises (TVEs), and the establishment of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) such as Shenzhen catalyzed economic dynamism. GDP growth accelerated, and China opened its doors to foreign direct investment and global trade.

The institutional transformation involved key ministries, the People's Bank of China, and local governments experimenting with decentralized economic management. Challenges during this stage included widespread corruption, growing income disparities, and limited legal frameworks to manage rapid industrialization. Moreover, political conservatism limited political liberalization, evident in the Tiananmen Square protests (1989), reflecting tensions between economic modernization and political rigidity.

5.13.3 Stage 3: Integration with the Global Economy (1992–2012)

China's modernization deepened during this stage as it pursued global economic integration. Under Jiang Zemin and Hu Jintao, China joined the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 2001, which symbolized global acceptance of its economic reforms. Massive infrastructure projects, urbanization, and technological adoption became hallmarks of this phase. Export-led growth turned China into the "world's factory," while GDP grew at unprecedented rates.

Institutional support came from agencies like the Ministry of Commerce, National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), and large-scale SOEs that facilitated global trade. However, this stage also magnified challenges: environmental degradation, labor exploitation, overdependence on exports, and the beginning signs of an aging population. Urban-rural inequality widened, and regional disparities threatened social cohesion. Although economic modernization progressed rapidly, social modernization lagged behind.

5.13.4 Stage 4: Innovation-Driven and Digital Modernization under Xi Jinping (2013–Present)

This current stage represents a paradigm shift in modernization, emphasizing high-tech innovation, self-reliance, digital governance, and green development. Xi Jinping's policies have redefined modernization by integrating ideological control, economic restructuring, technological independence, and environmental responsibility. Initiatives like "Made in China 2025," the Digital Silk Road, and carbon neutrality by 2060 represent ambitious modernization goals.

Institutions such as the Cyberspace Administration of China, Ministry of Science and Technology, and People's Bank of China have played central roles in implementing digital and financial reforms. Moreover, the Chinese Communist Party has asserted increased control over private firms, especially in the tech and education sectors, reflecting a shift toward "state capitalism 2.0."

However, this stage also faces the most intense challenges. Rising geopolitical tensions, especially with the U.S., have led to technological embargoes and trade sanctions. Internally, China confronts a complex balancing act: maintaining growth amid stricter regulations, managing demographic decline, mitigating environmental crises, and addressing international criticism of its human rights policies. The non-linear nature of modernization is most evident here, where every advancement brings new complexities—economic, political, social, and environmental.

5.14 Policy Implications for Pakistan Based on Chinese Modernization

China's model of modernization under Xi Jinping provides a rich set of policy lessons for Pakistan, particularly as it strives for economic stability, technological advancement, and institutional reform. First, the emphasis on long-term strategic planning, as evidenced by China's Five-Year Plans and centralized policy execution, suggests that Pakistan must strengthen its own policy continuity and planning mechanisms beyond electoral cycles. Establishing a long-term modernization blueprint—such as a 20-year national development framework—could help ensure focused progress.

Second, China's investment in infrastructure-led growth, especially through state-owned enterprises and public-private partnerships, can inform Pakistan's CPEC (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor) implementation. Pakistan should prioritize regional connectivity, energy security, and digital infrastructure, while ensuring transparent institutional governance to attract investment.

Third, human capital development through vocational education, STEM training, and university–industry linkages has been vital in China's transformation. Pakistan must urgently reform its education system to produce a skilled, globally competitive workforce capable of meeting modern industrial demands.

Fourth, China's focus on technological innovation and digital economy is particularly relevant. Pakistan can replicate elements such as fintech expansion, e-governance, and AI research by strengthening digital policy frameworks and attracting diaspora talent. Additionally, China's approach to green modernization—with massive investments in renewable energy and environmental regulation—should encourage Pakistan to pursue sustainable development models, especially in response to climate vulnerability.

Lastly, institutional strength has been central to China's modernization success. Pakistan must focus on building independent regulatory bodies, improving bureaucratic efficiency, and limiting ad hoc governance. However, while learning from China, Pakistan must also remain aware of the contextual differences and strive to

maintain democratic values, human rights protections, and federal autonomy, ensuring modernization is both inclusive and contextually appropriate.

5.15 Institutional Achievements and Challenges in China's Modernization: A Non-Linear Path

China's modernization has unfolded through a series of distinct phases, each marked by institutional innovation, structural reforms, and adaptive strategies. However, modernization in China has not followed a smooth or linear progression. Each stage brought about its own set of achievements and setbacks, shaped by internal contradictions, evolving political ideologies, global dynamics, and the complex interplay between state and society. The institutions that guided each stage were both agents of transformation and sites of contestation, and the challenges faced were not just transitional but often deeply structural.

Stage 1: Traditional Agricultural Economy (1949–1978)

In the first phase following the establishment of the People's Republic of China in 1949, modernization was defined largely through ideological lenses. The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) emerged as the dominant institution, aiming to dismantle feudal structures and create an egalitarian, self-sufficient socialist society. People's Communes were created to collectivize agricultural production, while the People's Liberation Army (PLA) supported national integration and economic campaigns. These institutions were pivotal in consolidating state power and laying the groundwork for later reforms.

However, this stage was fraught with major challenges. The Great Leap Forward (1958–1962), driven by the CCP's centralized planning, resulted in catastrophic famine due to unrealistic production quotas, poor local governance, and the suppression of dissent. The absence of market mechanisms, combined with excessive ideological zeal, led to massive resource misallocation. The Cultural Revolution (1966–1976) further disrupted institutional continuity by purging intellectuals, scientists, and bureaucrats, resulting in the collapse of higher education and long-term developmental setbacks. The lack of institutional checks and over-

reliance on revolutionary mobilization exposed the limits of an ideology-dominated modernization model.

Stage 2: Reform and Opening-Up Era (1978–1992)

The second stage began with Deng Xiaoping's pragmatic leadership, shifting the modernization process from ideological purity to economic efficiency. Key institutions such as the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), local governments, and newly established Special Economic Zones (SEZs) played vital roles in driving agricultural de-collectivization, allowing private enterprise, and encouraging foreign direct investment. Township and Village Enterprises (TVEs) became powerful engines of rural industrialization and job creation.

Nevertheless, the reforms created new and complex challenges. The decentralization of economic power led to uneven development and corruption at local levels. While GDP increased significantly, the reforms also triggered a rise in income inequality, especially between rural and urban areas. Politically, the system remained rigid, which became evident during the 1989 Tiananmen Square protests. These events highlighted the mismatch between economic liberalization and political repression, revealing that modernization was not simply a matter of economic reform but also of institutional adaptation and legitimacy.

Stage 3: Global Economic Integration (1992–2012)

During this period, under Jiang Zemin and Hu Jintao, China entered the global economy more fully, culminating in its accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 2001. Institutions such as the Ministry of Commerce, the People's Bank of China, and major State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) became crucial actors in managing international trade, investment, and infrastructure expansion. Reforms in banking, stock markets, and legal systems allowed China to support its export-led growth model and attract foreign capital.

Despite these achievements, challenges multiplied. The over-reliance on exports and manufacturing caused environmental degradation, overcapacity in key

industries, and rising labor unrest. Urbanization surged, but so did the marginalization of migrant workers and the erosion of public welfare systems. The financial system, while expanding, remained opaque and vulnerable to shadow banking and speculative bubbles. The institutional framework, although more complex and globally connected, struggled with transparency and governance issues. Thus, while modernization was advancing in terms of global competitiveness, social modernization lagged, exposing deep structural imbalances.

Stage 4: Innovation-Driven and Ideological Modernization under Xi Jinping (2013–Present)

The current stage of modernization, led by Xi Jinping, emphasizes innovation, technological self-reliance, digital transformation, and ideological consolidation. Institutions such as the Cyberspace Administration of China, Ministry of Science and Technology, and the State Council have been instrumental in launching strategic programs like “Made in China 2025,” the Digital Silk Road, and carbon neutrality by 2060. The Communist Party has reasserted its control over all aspects of governance, economy, and civil society, aiming for a modern socialist state with Chinese characteristics.

However, this stage faces the most intense and multi-dimensional challenges. Technological containment by Western powers, especially in semiconductors and AI, has exposed China’s vulnerabilities in critical sectors. Internally, increasing surveillance, tighter regulation of private enterprises, and restrictions on academic freedom have created tension between innovation and control. The aging population, urban housing crises, and rural stagnation continue to pressure the state’s welfare capacity. Additionally, China’s assertive foreign policy has provoked strategic pushback, leading to geopolitical isolation in some regions. Environmental threats—ranging from air pollution to water scarcity and climate change—also challenge the sustainability of its development model. These complex and overlapping issues show that modernization is not a finished project but a dynamic, contested, and sometimes contradictory process.

5.16 Recommendations

1. Derived from the investigation and discussion of this study, the following recommendations are put forward to respond to the challenges the Xi Jinping administration confronts, and to enhance the efficacy of Chinese foreign policy.
2. China should build trust, cooperation and strategic stability in the Asia-Pacific region by strengthening multilateral diplomatic platforms. A more subtle way of addressing the situation should include more active engagement with regional organizations such as ASEAN, as well as working through frameworks like the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) to de-escalate tensions and diffuse conflict in the region.
3. This means that in order to prevent the outbreak of conflict in sensitive areas like the South and East China Seas, a more centrist diplomatic approach from China is advisable. Disputes may be settled in international legal settings, and compliance with established principles of maritime rights will mitigate the unilateralism perceived by and may foster a climate of trust among neighboring states.
4. If Beijing wishes to improve international confidence in its leadership, it must likewise improve transparency in foreign relations — especially during a crisis like the coronavirus pandemic. Using timely-ness and respect of global laws, and mores, by resorting to dispel skepticism, China will gain a reputation to adhere to, globally.
5. Readjust the BRI to alleviate the delays and number of inefficiencies that were exposed during the pandemic. Adopting sustainable and inclusive development models, focusing on quality rather than quantity in infrastructure projects, and working in alliance with host countries can cement the long-term success of BRI and gain local public support.
6. Instead, China must work on reducing its own vulnerability to external shocks by diversifying its economy and supply chains. Increasing domestic innovation, partner with the world and develop the third world countries, one

will ensure the sustainable and growing economy by reducing the over-recastle trade reliance behaviors.

7. The Xi administration should be more mindful of international interests as it navigates contentious domestic challenges such as Hong Kong, Xinjiang, Tibet, and Taiwan. Reducing the level of repression and making domestic policies more conducive to international human rights standards will lessen such criticism and lead to a more favorable international environment.
8. Instead, China should use its cooperative engagements to highlight mutually beneficial outcomes for everyone if China cooperates fully with others to push back growing competition with the United States. This is all to say we can be competitive without flaring into conflict, and that means working together on issues that transcend the competition: the global challenges which require cooperation, climate change, health challenges, economic recovery, all of it needs to be balanced against rivalry.
9. China should guide international organizations toward fair governance, not unilateral benefit China should take part positively in dealing with global issues, and follow the rules of multilateralism, so as to portray a better image of a responsible world leader.
10. Beijing Should Integrate Long-Term Strategic Planning with National Interests and Global Responsibilities into Foreign Policy. Through its flexible and adaptable nature, China will be able to effectively respond to emerging challenges and take advantage of opportunities to strengthen its position on the world stage.
11. China should engage in cultural exchange programs, educational partnerships, and humanitarian aid, as these are powerful tools to offset the negative perceptions of aggressive diplomacy. Evoking a narrative of peaceful development and win-win cooperation will bolster the soft power of China and cultivate goodwill across the country.
12. Those pragmatic suggestions are designed to help Xi Jinping administration to meet challenges of modern international politics, improve its foreign relations and cope with the idea of making China to be a responsible global leader.

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ANNEXTURE-A

RESEARCH SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE (QUANTITATIVE)

I am M.S student of research in Politics & IR, working on research entitled “China’s Economic Modernization: An Analysis of Xi Jinping Thought”. I assure the confidentiality the information you provide. However, there is no physical, psychological, or social harm to the participants of this study. Your kind cooperation is highly appreciated in advancing the research activity. Kindly respond to the following questionnaire.

Thanks,

Rimsha Gull

M.S Student,

Department of Politics and International Relations

International Islamic University Islamabad

Instructions:

Please rate the following statements based on your level of agreement, where:
1 = Strongly Disagree | 2 = Disagree | 3 = Neutral | 4 = Agree | 5 = Strongly Agree

Sr.	Statements	SDA	DA	N	A	SA
Section 1: The Current Chinese Model under Xi Jinping Compared to the Market Economy						
1.	Xi Jinping’s governance has improved China’s economic structure.					
2.	State-owned enterprises (SOEs) play a larger and more effective role under Xi Jinping.					
3.	The principle of “common prosperity” aligns well with global market economy principles.					
4.	The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) effectively drives economic decision-making under Xi					

	Jinping.					
5.	China has reduced its dependence on foreign investments under Xi Jinping's leadership.					
6.	Technological advancements in China are as significant as those in market-driven economies.					
7.	Xi Jinping's policies effectively balance social welfare with economic growth.					
8.	Economic inequality in China has decreased under Xi Jinping's governance.					
9.	The Chinese government's involvement in the economy is more effective than in Western economies.					
10.	China's economic growth model under Xi Jinping is sustainable for the long term.					
Section 2: Impact of Xi Jinping's Modernized China Model on the Global Balance of Power						
11.	The Belt and Road Initiative has strengthened China's global influence.					
12.	China's advancements in technology enhance its global standing.					
13.	Xi Jinping's strategies have increased China's influence in international organizations.					
14.	China's economic policies challenge U.S. dominance in global affairs.					
15.	China has reshaped global trade norms under Xi Jinping's leadership.					
16.	China's cooperation with developing nations has grown stronger under Xi Jinping.					
17.	China has become more central to global supply chains due to Xi Jinping's policies.					
18.	Partnerships with countries like BRICS nations have shifted the global power balance in China's favor.					
19.	Xi Jinping's economic policies have promoted regional economic integration in Asia.					
20.	China's global image and soft power have improved under Xi Jinping.					

Section 3: Impact of Modern China on the Global Economy					
21.	China is a significant contributor to global GDP growth under Xi Jinping.				
22.	Modern China has influenced the global technology landscape.				
23.	China's role as a manufacturing hub drives global economic trends.				
24.	China's trade policies have had a positive impact on global trade dynamics.				
25.	China's energy consumption and policies affect global energy markets.				
26.	Xi Jinping's financial policies attract global investments.				
27.	Modern China plays a key role in global efforts to address climate change.				
28.	China's digital currency initiatives are shaping global financial systems.				
29.	The rise of China's middle class has impacted global consumer markets.				
30.	China's economic rise presents both opportunities and challenges to the global economy.				

ANNEXTURE-B

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS (QUALITATIVE)

I am M.S student of research in Politics & IR, working on research entitled “China’s Economic Modernization: An Analysis of Xi Jinping Thought”. I assure the confidentiality the information you provide. However, there is no physical, psychological, or social harm to the participants of this study. Your kind cooperation is highly appreciated in advancing the research activity. Kindly respond to the following questionnaire.

Instructions:

Please provide your responses in detail

Objective 1: To analyze the current Chinese model under Xi Jinping as compared to the market economy

1. How have state-owned enterprises (SOEs) influenced China’s economy during Xi Jinping’s tenure?
2. In what ways has the concept of “common prosperity” been implemented in China’s economic policies?
3. How has Xi Jinping’s leadership impacted foreign investments in China?
4. What are your thoughts on the balance between social welfare and economic growth in China’s current model?
5. How sustainable is China’s economic model under Xi Jinping’s modernization efforts?

Objective 2: To analyze how Xi Jinping’s modernized China model has shifted the balance of power globally

1. In your opinion, how does China’s current economic strategy challenge U.S. global dominance?

2. How has Xi Jinping's leadership strengthened China's ties with developing nations?
3. What effect has China's economic model had on global supply chains?
4. What impact has China's regional integration in Asia had on its global influence?
5. What are the long-term implications of China's rise as a global economic power?

Objective 3: To find out the impact of modern China on the global economy

1. How has China's technological innovation influenced global industries and markets?
2. What impact has China's position as a manufacturing hub had on the global economy?
3. How have China's trade policies under Xi Jinping shaped global trade dynamics?
4. What opportunities and challenges does China's economic rise present to the global economy?
5. In your view, what are the potential risks or benefits of China's economic modernization for the global economy?