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# **Exploring the causes of conflict between India and China**

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## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **Introduction**

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1950, the Republic of China and India have not had a good relationship. The two countries have had volatile engagements with many withstanding unresolved issues, especially in the land boundary disputes. The disputes have even resulted in different military wars experienced in the country. The Sino-Indian war that occurred in 1962, Nathu La and Cho La border clashes in 1967, and the Sumdorong Chu conflicts in 1987 are examples of wars that have resulted from the conflict. Analyzing the conflict between the two countries is thus essential as it depicts how the relationship between them has been ever since they attained independence.

This thesis paper seeks to explore some of the potential causes of the conflict that has continued to exist between China and India and the different strategies that have been implemented with time to ensure that the disputes have been resolved. The thesis will further outline the various research objectives and questions while indicating why I find them interesting. In addition, it will also provide a section on the research methodology adopted in the study. Finally, the general structure of the thesis will also be provided.

### **Research Objectives**

The first objective of this research is to examine some of the potential causes of conflict that have been in existence between China and India since 1950. The goal is interesting because exploring the causes of conflict between these two countries is the main problem being studied. Therefore, this objective will aim to provide the answer to the main research question and this, therefore, makes it interesting to fulfill. The objective will focus

on the contribution of aspects such as border disputes, incursions, and Tibet and water disputes towards the existing differences between the two countries.

India and China are two central rising powers under keen observation by the West and the rest of the world (Malone & Mukherjee, 2010). Therefore, this objective would be interesting because it will address why these two rising forces should collaborate to conduct businesses to foster growth and development that have remained in a conflicting situation.

Another objective of the research is to analyze the effects that have been brought about by the border disputes between China and India, such as the vacation of people who have already settled within the borders of the two countries. The objective is interesting because conflicts over the border between two neighboring countries have been common for an extended period. Hence, this objective aims at explaining why the conflict existed between China and India. The contribution of Tibet to the unfriendly relationship between these countries is another important objective that will be analyzed. The analysis is interesting because it will clarify if Tibet is legally positioned in the Republic of China or whether it belongs to India.

The different steps that can be put in place to ensure that the conflict has been resolved are other interesting facts that have been addressed in the thesis. The steps attempt to explain the role that International relations (IR) play in lowering the tension between states. The role of trade imbalance in the conflict is another interesting objective that will be further analyzed. The trade imbalance is among the significant contributing factors between states (Weber & Shaikh, 2021). The imbalance is crucial because it leads to unfair trading activities that work to the disadvantage of some countries as opposed to others. The imbalance that has been experienced as a result of the war has led to the deteriorating partnership between the two countries, further leading to a sluggish economy.

## **Research Questions**

The research aims to answer various questions about the ongoing conflict between India and China. For example, one of the most critical factors that the research questions will be attending to is the effects of the border war's clashes and disputes. It is evident that in cases where they fail to agree on the exact position or location of the boundary, the two countries get into conflicts. Therefore, I believe this research question is interesting because it will justify whether a border dispute is the main reason for this conflict. The thesis will also look into some strategies that have been set and implemented with time to ensure that the conflict has been resolved. Some of the techniques that have been applied and will be discussed in the thesis include the holding of peace talks held in 1981 and the suggestion of a collaboration between both rising powers for the good of the Asian economy. The study of the strategies is interesting because it will justify the importance of studying International Relations, especially why it helps enhance the relationship between states or countries.

China has experienced tremendous economic growth over the years and this, therefore, leads to another research question that will be answered in the research. In this case, whether China's economic growth has contributed to the ongoing conflict. This is interesting because it will answer whether fair competition exists between the two conflicting countries. Finally, another research question will be whether the international community can contribute to resolving this conflict. This is an interesting question because it will explain the international community's role in conflict resolutions, especially when two neighboring countries conflict.

## **Research Methodology**

The research methodology that will be adopted for this study is the qualitative methodology. The approach involves collecting and analyzing non-numerical data or information to understand the opinion, experiences, and concepts about the research question (Mohajan, 2018). For the study concerning the causes of conflict between China and India, the sources of data or information that will be used in the data analysis include conducting interviews with diplomats who have an understanding and a comprehensive history of the relationship between India and China.

Open-ended questions about some potential causes of this conflict will be used. Another possible source will be focus groups, and this will involve interacting with carefully selected individuals to engage in a discussion on the topic of causes of conflict between the two countries. Finally, a case study which is the most common approach for studying the work environment will be adopted.

In his case, multiple sources such as field notes, journals, and documents previously written about the research question will be adopted. This will allow me to compare the opinions presented in these materials and those from interviews and focus groups engaged in the process. The final step that will be employed is to analyze the data that has been obtained from the qualitative research conducted. For example, the evaluation of the accuracy of the information that has been presented from the diverse sources, which will help arrive at a conclusion on some of the leading causes of conflict between India and China.

## **Structure of the thesis**

The thesis that will be written will be composed of various elements in its structure. To begin with, it will have an abstract section that provides a general overview of the thesis. The second section will be the introduction which will give an overview of the main points of view. The opening will provide reasons why the topic is being studied, how it is guided and what is being investigated. The literature review will be the third section of the thesis, and it will provide an evaluation of the previous research on the topic, including the gaps that the study will attempt to fill.

In this case, the literature review will include the usage of a wide array of sources and consider both sides of the study. The study method will be another element that will be included in the structure of the thesis. It will give an analysis of the technique that has been selected to study the topic through gathering data and the research design that is suitable for the research question. The fifth element in the thesis will be the outcomes or results. This section will give an outline of the results that have been obtained concerning the various research questions that were presented for the study.

The part will present the facts of the study. It will illustrate the findings and present them in tables or graphs that make it easier to understand the topic of study. A discussion chapter will also be included in the thesis, and it will provide individual analysis and interpretation of the data that has been obtained. This section will show my understanding of the findings and their significance. The final section of the thesis will be the conclusion, highlighting the objectives that have been achieved.

## CHAPTER TWO

### Research Methodology

This chapter brings together the different approaches that were used in this study to compile the different studies and information on the topic in an attempt to answer the research questions. It focuses on bringing light on multiple approaches that have been used in the proceedings of research that have assisted in the completion of the thesis. It majorly focuses on highlighting the different aspects of research in the following process. It will focus on the design used for research which was used in the collection of data, and explain the criteria used for selection that was used with different kinds of respondents used within the study. It will then explore the different methods of data collection and bring this together in the study after which it will explore the study's limitations.

This paper will adopt a qualitative methodology for the study. This is an approach that would involve the collection and conduction of analyses with the use of information and non-numerical data that will allow the development of an understanding of the concepts, experiences, and opinions on the research questions. To find an understanding of the issues regarding the conflict between the two countries, India and China, the data sources and the information will include conducting interviews with different stakeholders and experts to find an understanding of the entire relationship between China and India.

Open-ended questions will be used to determine the potential reasons for the ongoing conflict between the two countries. Another potential source will be the use of focus groups which will involve the interaction between carefully selected individuals in the discussion topic regarding the causes of conflicts between these two nations. A case study will then be included and this will highlight the most common approach to study the

environment for work. In this case, there will be multiple sources such as documents, journals, and field notes that have been written previously regarding the research question.

This will allow for comparisons between the different opinions presented on these materials and those from the interviews and the focus groups that are engaged in the process. The final step that I will take is to analyze the information that has been obtained from the qualitative research that was conducted. For instance, there will be an evaluation of the accuracy of the information presented from the different sources as this will enable the arrival to a conclusion on different causes of conflict between China and India.

### **Limitations and Scope**

Analyzing the presence of a clash between China and India will be conducted in a manner of a comparative case study. All these participants in the conflict are country regions, but there may be nations within the conflict such as Bhutan that have some kind of partnership with India which means that the decisions made may not be as independent as other nations. Nevertheless, Bhutan and Tibet are considered to be independent countries even though there is influence, they seem to have independent foreign policies and relations with other nations. However, this thesis will address Tibet and Bhutan and their close allies; India and China, unless it is stated differently. The major sections of analysis in this paper will be China and India exclusively.

There are multiple analytical limitations and these are illustrated in different forms. One of them includes the inner section of India which is considered to have a particular rate of regional countries that are controlled by the lead ministers and these enjoy a particular form of independence in decision making from the Indian government. These entities within



the country may at a particular point have a diverse perspective compared to that of the central government, unlike China which does and interacts with all international entities from the central government. These interactions between different nations are therefore going to be the main focus of the analysis within this thesis unless revealed differently.

The limitations may therefore develop in different sections that stick towards the interpretation of multiple agreements and policies from other policies that may have been created for a different purpose. The different interpretation of situations, policies, political stances, agreements, events and situations and the like creates a major limitation for the study because the point of view differs for different people. Interpretation of multiple factors for both China and India are in cases that vary largely. There are times when this rises beyond the levels and this is with the various interpretation of Chinese Literature and Western literature. To look through this form of a conundrum, the focus will be on the understandings and the narratives presented by the different sides with not deciding on the right and wrong side. An analysis of the impact of these views on the progress and the available resolutions of the Sino-Indian border dispute will be conducted.

### **Choice of Theory**

The research and analysis aspect of this particular thesis will focus on the application of realist theories on international state relations. The basis of this research will majorly be focused on the material factors of the association between China and India, for example, administrative policies and undefined geography, the use of control theory, and the economic and military power. This does not mean that the approaches that will be used will not have an opinion or that non-substantial values will not participate in the mutual relations. However, taking a more realist approach will be more practical since both governments have nuclear weapons in their possessions and they have a very strong military power or that they

do not share in a similar governance system while having a conflicted history. For this reason, two theories will be used in answering these research questions.

The theory of securitization will be used to provide an explanation of the unrest between China and India and the development of the same to the current stage which is considered a frozen conflict. It will develop and explore the national security issue on the view of it being inherited and through poor border delineation. The study will also follow the defensive neorealism that will be useful in addressing the shortcomings in an attempt to understand the reason why the presence of conflict in the current day and the factors that might influence these two nations into maintaining the status quo. Since the two countries may have a realist approach to the conflict focused on protecting their interests and differences, it always drives the security competition to the breaking point. What follows this is a reduction in the temperament of the situation or a heated standoff. All this while bringing together the idea of the re-creation of the conflicts, military and economic power, as well as the public and international approvals. Through reversing the securitization theory, there may be an understanding of the terms through which these would de-escalate the conflict in the Himalayas since it would affect the dynamics of power in the entire theatre.

### **Choice of Data**

In addition to the literature that supports these theories that will be applied, these will be taken from the information based on history that concerns the changes in governance between India under the British colony and its conversion as an independent state or in the transition between the systems of governance in China. To understand the policies that have been put in place on these two sides of the border, policy in this thesis will not be understood only through an administrative order as opposed to the main approach of the actor against another that has a set of both tangible and non-tangible actions. By tangible, the policies of

these individuals will affect those whose effects can be seen to a particular measure as seen with the laws, the development of intentional control, and infrastructural control focused on a rise in the budget.

Meanwhile, policies considered non-tangible will represent these concepts of ideology and national identity, with changes in the perceptions of the state that may represent these different areas in between the borders and the areas of an invisible hand in the opinion of the public that may guide on the processes for making decisions. The main purpose of this will be increased to focus on the interpretation and narratives of different sides on various events that were considered to happen from the individuals' perspectives and that of the state. This includes different official sources from the government and the independent and state-run media, non-profit organizations, and experts from different individuals.

## **Research Method**

The method that will be used for research will be in line with the theories chosen as these theoretical lenses will be used to look through the policies and the conflicts present on the border between India and China. The theory of securitization will serve as the stepping stone, addressing the issue of the way the conflict developed over decades. This will be supplemented by the neorealism in the middle, addressing the conflict relative status quo situation followed by the theory of securitization but in a reverse application of de-securitization. Trying to develop a framework for understanding the effect de-escalation has on the dynamics of the conflict leads to the hypotheses and this may go through the observation to develop statements for analysis and the answers to the research question.

## **Research Approach**

There will be three different pillars in this research. Each of the pillars will have a main focus and will explore the conflict between India and China from a hard and powerful holistic perspective. However, while the main idea will be on material factors and hard power, there will be certain marginal spaces that will be presented to sociological topics. This is mainly because of the pillars of socio-geographics. Because there is a belief that in the absence of finding a solution for the issues of Indian and Chinese identity, the concepts of the state of the nation due to the history of the two countries would not have the ability to provide a well-developed picture and approach. These different pillars will focus on the policies that are oriented materially and are considered tangible mostly in terms of the second economic pillar. The third pillar will be the pillar of politico-military and this will explore the roles of public and international opinions which will bring together the different policies as seen in these three combined pillars in addition to the whole military.

The pillar of socio-geography will be focused on two critical areas; the sociological and the geographical pillars. The geographical pillars will highlight the issues of natural boundaries as well as their delamination and interpretation. There are several common border parts between China and India and these will suffer from the delimitation which will lead to a poor interpretation that would be considered unintentional.

There is a lot of chunks of land that are in the major peaks and those that are in line with certain rivers which often shift as the peaks are covered in snow. This means that the two sides may interpret that the line of control lies in a particular space which develops into a conflict. The part that focuses on sociology will highlight how borders are perceived. With the Indians under the British, the empire was controlled by London and this meant that there

were interests of the empire that determined the imperial interests of the nation and these radiated from different areas of the core.

Therefore, the issue of delimitation of borders may not have led to conflicts in the previous years since this was seen as a frontier. This could be seen with the Chinese and their occupation of Tibet. Additionally, it will also highlight the areas of the ideology on the nation and the ideas this has on the national identity, supplemented by data in history. Since multiple territories were seen to be claimed from the different sides as seen with the interpretation of the land in different areas of history they would be seen to be right.

This pillar considered to be economic will be focused on three different distinctive economic chapters. Since the economy is a major topic, three different topics were brought together based on the different activities in China and India in respective fields in different years as well as the connection they have to the dispute on the border to which they are considered to be related in some ways. The first chapter will be focused on how the development of infrastructure in these dispute areas or close to them such as military barracks, new villages, airports, and roads. The second chapter will be focused on the geopolitics regarding water within the borders at the Himalayan theater as well as the upstream use of water and the diversion politics and the influence this has on the relations between the two nations. China is considered to control the upstream rivers of seven mighty rivers depending on the Asian community, 48% of which run into India.

Developing a contention area in the nation is seen to be majorly dependent on the water. Since China was in pursuit of the main project scales, there may have been a reduction in the water flow downstream (Repieva, 2014). The final chapter will focus on addressing the policies of the economy considered to be intangible and of administrative nature. Because of the different sanctions, bans, and subsidies in the economy as seen with the banning of

applications of the Chinese in the nation. The politico-military pillar as well as the first pillar broke down into political parts.

The military parts will focus on researching the army expansion plans as well as the presentation of funds towards the border as well as the creation of strategies for the different points. On the other hand, the political party will be focused on the creation of policies for the administration that will aim at the control and governance of particular subjects of territories. As seen, this could bring together the revoking of the special governance status presented by the Central government of India as of 2019. Considering the opinion of the public at home from the point of view of the domestic and international parties as they have taken all the pillars that had been developed initially into perspective.

## CHAPTER THREE

### Literature Review

The Sino-Indian conflict has a root cause in the 3,440 kilometers-long border where the dispute originated. It has snow caps, lakes, and rivers in the entire frontier, meaning that there is a high chance for shifts in the frontier which may bring the soldiers to close together at different points, leading to confrontations (Sidhu, 2003). Additionally, China and India are also competing to develop infrastructure at the border points, which is considered the Line of Actual Control. India is developing a road that will connect an airbase at a high altitude which is considered to be among the reasons that led to clashes with troops from the Chinese in June that left about 20 soldiers from India dead.



*Line of Control*

While there have been talks between the two nations, there have been a lot of tensions. The most recent skirmish led to the injury of troops on both sides of the divide. It occurred on the border between the Sikkim state of India in the middle of Nepal and Bhutan.

There was a high amount of violence in 2020, with the presence of an altercation in June in the Galway Valley, which allowed fights with sticks and clubs. Such confrontations are considered part of these two sides, which was deemed fatal since the year 1975. While India spoke of the deaths from this violence, the Chinese did not talk about it in their reports, but they also faced significant fatalities.

In August, India accused China of consistently provoking tensions between the two countries' military bi-weekly at the border. There were denials by the Chinese government, and India was blamed for the standoff between the two nations. India was accused in September of having fired shots into the air, and if this were true, it would be considered the first-time shots were fired into the air at the border for more than 45 years. China and India had an agreement that there would be no use of explosives and guns at the border points.

The countries have fought only one war in 1962. In this war, India was majorly affected, leading to increased defeats. However, the presence of tension involves escalation risks, and this may be highly devastating given that these two sides have well-developed nuclear power systems (Khan, 2016). The economy will be significantly affected, considering both countries are some of the biggest trade partners.

The standoff in the military is indicated by the increasing tension politically, which has created a lot of pressure and increased the stress on the current ties between the leaders of the two states, Xi Jinping and Narendra Modi. Observers indicate that conducting talks is one of the significant reasons to move on because these two nations have a lot to lose if a war breaks out at the border.



## **History of Conflict**

There have been limited changes in the relations between China and India since time immemorial. Since the honour of Mao Zedong in the first anniversary of the Indian constitution in 1951, they highlighted a positive relationship between the two nations for thousands of years (Hoffmann, 1990). However, there have been few proclamations presented by the leaders from both countries for many years that truly illustrate the way relations are present among these two neighbours. The nations have had a rich and sometimes presence of frictions in history, but it is surprising why these two countries should have a heavily reactive relationship.

However, there has been no country that has established an effective strategy towards another. There has been preoccupation between both sides of the countries with opposing military that has been unprofitable, and this has left the relationship between these two countries poorly tended to (Hoffmann, 1990). It may be considered one of the geostrategic competitions that have been qualified through the growth of commercial cooperation.

There has been some kind of absence of symmetry where China has more affected subjects in the debates conducted nationally debates in India compared to how China and India are together (Hoffmann, 1990). China is not considered threatened in any profound way by India; on the other hand, India seems to illustrate some form of insecurity because of the nation's economic success and military expansion.

To the rest of the world, China and India illustrate some form of striking similarities. These two nations are ancient civilizations and reincarnated a modern republic in the mid-twentieth century, and they are developing into rising powers (Rao, 2014). The two countries have well set nuclear power systems and weapons. They have well-developed economies, and

there are high budgets presented to the military and a high population converting to the military workforce. They seem to be attempting to increase their influence in East Asia, Central Asia, Africa, the Persian Gulf, and the Indian Ocean.

However, limited attention is being paid to the relationship between these two nations (Rao, 2014). The majority of the scholarships are focused on the relations between Beijing and the United States, East Asia or Japan, on the other side, the relationship between New Delhi with the United States, South Asia, and Pakistan (Siddiqi, 2012).

While the relations between US and China are often focused on contesting for the pre-eminence in the globe, the Sino-Indian links are mostly seen with the attempts by the countries to interact with other external factors such as the South Asian countries, Pakistani and the United States (Rao, 2014). It is also defined by the presence of different development models and policies where the parties compete for markets, capital, resources and legitimacy in the arena of global powers.

### **Transformation of the Sino-Indian Relations**

The development and interaction between the Chinese and Indians have been marked and covered by four main phases. The presence of ideological understanding and purported friendship between the nations on the objectives of the foreign policies developed in the 1950s dropped into high levels of conflicts, which was a cold war between the two countries (Singh, 2008). Efforts for bilateral normalizations after 1976 led to the presence of approaches to address the differences using dialogue.

This was not easy because of the sensitivities of the Indians, which were expressed frequently in parliament and on media sites. In 1998, India focused on the justifications on the second round of nuclear tests. While this developed tension between India and China,

there have been improved economic relations (Singh, 2008). Nonetheless, there has been a period of occasional antagonism and uncertainty between the nations from 1988 onwards. The emergence of the Chinese marks this as a significant power in the world and the maintenance of India by other authorities. The US is a critical country to counterweight regional influence and Chinese power.

China and India's relations began on a friendly approach soon after creating these two republics. The 1950s epitomized by the Hindi slogan indicating that the Chinese and Indians as brothers were made because of their ability to cast off the imperialist yoke using different struggles (Acharya, 1995). These two countries developed a shared sense of responsibility. They were supposed to guide these nations that developed from colonization to establish prosperity and peace in the presence of an increased backdrop of the increasing conflict between the US and the Soviet countries.

As late as 1962, during the border disputes between the Indians and the Chinese, the Zhou Enlai, the then Chinese Premier, reminded the Indian Prime Ministers that the common interests of their two nations in the struggles against imperialism outweigh the differences between them (Acharya, 1995). He highlighted a responsibility for the presence of friendship between China and India, Africa-Asia solidarity, and Asian peace.

Despite the presence of common ground, there were ideological differences between the leaders Nehru and Mao in their control of the foreign policies between the countries. Mao had already guided a military movement that brought together the Chinese peasants to win the civil war and develop the People's Republic of China (Acharya, 1995).

On the other hand, Nehru had developed a movement led by Mahatma Gandhi that allowed them to gain their victory against the British in the absence of violent resistance.

Therefore, Nehru chose to have a non-alignment policy, while Mao chose a format policy with intermittent support for the revolution internationally.

However, China and India could not agree to share the throne to lead all the colonies that had gained their independence in Africa and Asia. During the first Afro-Asian Conference held in Indonesia, Nehru was proud to introduce Zhou to other leaders to suggest that India was a public mentor in the phase of development.

Following this, there was a strategic understanding between Pakistan, which was founded on the convergent interests at the expense of the Indians (Karackattu, 2013). This developed a foundation to develop alliances that would be considered intact. The competition between India and China led to a rise in the strain between their ties, leading to conflicts in Sino-Indian relations.

While the presence of disputes at the border between the Chinese and the Indians has been traced to an earlier period (Karackattu, 2013), the antecedents of the nation lay in the invasion of the Chinese in Tibet in the 1950s. This led to increased tensions in India that had a lot of interest in Tibet. The central bonds developed in the Tibetan civilization had existed for more than two millennia.

With conflicts between the Indians and the Chinese, the Indians viewed all the intense power of expansion to be situated in Tibet. They held a loaded pistol in their hands pointed towards India. While India had adapted to the presence of Chinese in Tibet, reducing their support of the Tibetans and the United Nations were required to increase the conflict scope if it was not consistent with the limited support material in the Tibetan rebels.

Many controversies that develop on the border between India and Tibet and the Chinese and Indian border have existed for a long time. The main areas of increasing concern

were the sector in the east which is about 145,000 square kilometres, known as the North Eastern Frontier Agency by the Indians. This was considered South Tibet by the Chinese, and the sector in the West, which is 34,000 square kilometres, included the plateau of the Aksai Chin, which was in the border between Tibet, Xinjiang, and Kashmir.

Agents from the US CIA and Chiang Kai-shek conducted their training and financed the rebels in Tibet and the territory of Indians (Gojree, 2013). In 1959 March, there was an uprising against the rule of the Chinese in Tibet, and the Dalai Lama went to India. As they went for the Tibetan rebels, the forces of the Chinese went to these people, and they interacted with the Indian military forces. Zhou went for talks with Nehru, but these were deemed unsuccessful.

There were more aggressive and forward policies that India launched in 1961. This created military posts in the Chinese positions that existed at the time as they attempted to cut off the Chinese supply lines, which led to increased withdrawal. Reinforcement of this opportunity was reached in 1962 April, when the Chinese went together with the exact impacts of the Great Leap Forward that faced issues and fears of the invasion of the military from Taiwan in addition to the presence of different proxy conflicts in other areas of the United States (Acharya, 1995).

By July, there were resolutions of multiple challenges in the international scene, and the Chinese focused on countering Indian actions with their energy. China attacked the positions of India both in the West and East sectors to the surprise of New Delhi. Nehru interacted with the United States to gain assistance provided by John F. Kennedy (Acharya, 1995). Indians were given an aircraft carrier, but it was recalled immediately when a ceasefire was declared, and they held positions before the conflict was withdrawn. The war ended after 31 days, and the Chinese had won.

The war between the Chinese and the Indians is often considered a moment of a watershed in the foreign policy held by the Indians, and this was after there was an idealism that developed to allow for the development of pragmatism impulses of the different administrations that came up. Indians began to align their policies with those of the Soviet Union, and this had started with an increased split with the Chinese in the international communist movement during the same time when the Pakistanis and the Chinese came together.

The Chinese started nuclear tests at Lop Nor in 1964, and this set the stage for the Indians to successfully and peacefully conduct their tests in Pokhran ten years later. In 1965, the war between the Pakistanis and the Indians focused on testing the relationship that had already developed between the US and the Pakistanis and the Chinese and Pakistanis (Acharya, 1995).

When the US declared neutral and blocked the transfer of military power to Pakistan and India, Islamabad went to Beijing to get their assistance, and Beijing provided this form of control generously. When there was a war in China, and this dropped to the side of the Pakistanis, there was a specific front with the Indians on the border at Sikkim. The intervention by the United Nations that led to a ceasefire was critical to ensure that Chinese intervention was avoided.

### **Water Crisis as a Driving Force for the Conflict**

Over the past few years, speculations have been made by multiple scholars and analysts on the likelihood of the occurrence of war by China and India because of water. Several individuals maintain some form of water war and whether this will occur (Hoffmann, 2006). The arguments that create these beliefs stem from the idea of the uneven distribution

of water in India and China and China's upstream behaviours, including damming activities and how this could affect the downstream neighbour.

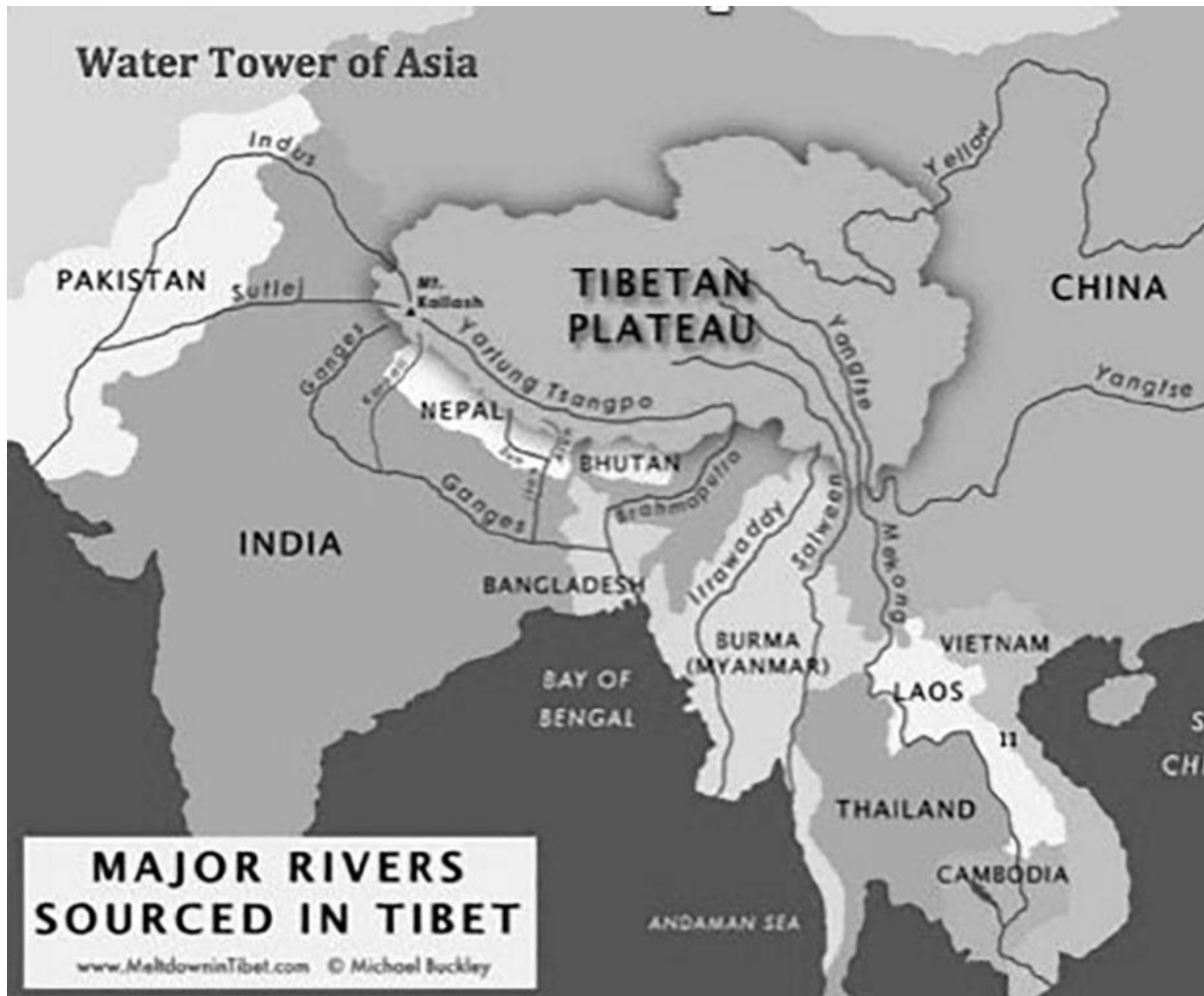
Currently, global warming is affecting the Tibet glaciers, making them melt faster. Similarly, there is a rise in water scarcities and an increasing regional water gap in the North and the South (Hoffmann, 2006). India has created pressure towards the Chinese focused on developing a plan to divert water to different places in the provinces to the West. The project would bring multiple effects for the Indians since they are downstream of the river, which goes through an area with a dispute that may have many implications for the sovereignty of the nation.

Different states will then improve their postures for security in a highly militarized area at the border. Additionally, with the economic nature of the Chinese already in a downward pattern, popular nationalism will threaten the communist party in China and its ability to pursue a foreign policy that is not influenced by public opinion or populism (Vertzberger, 1982).

One of the results that may develop is one of the reasons for the war between different nations. Scarcity of water and the effects of these on the ties has led to an increase in traction for many years, and this has been affected by the presence of quality and quantity of water for productions, ecosystems, livelihoods, and health, as well as the presence of adequate water for running the economy, the environment and the people (Qaddos, 2018). The idea for this included the presence of water scarcity and the presence of damage because of an increase in water due to epidemics, floods and contamination.

There are multiple driving forces towards the issue of water and the impact on the conflicts between India and China. The first driving factor is the increasing scarcity of water in China. The Tibetan plateau is placed in the Himalayas. It is considered a source of 10

major river systems, including the Mekong, Salween, Brahmaputra, Sutlej, Indus, Yangtze, and Yellow (Qaddos, 2018).



### *Major Rivers Sourced in Tibet*

This is the reason why Tibet is considered to be the Asian water tower. These rivers move through 11 countries, and they support more than 2 billion individuals from South East Asia to Vietnam, South Asia to India, and Afghanistan. Because of the upstream opinion, China has created a particular form of monopoly as they are the only suppliers of freshwater for different places in Southeast and South Asia (Qaddos, 2018). In the situation of India, both the rivers move to the South through the border of China and India. China is a



significant source of rivers that flow to other nations compared to the other superpowers worldwide.

However, despite significant water sources in the country, there is a looming water crisis that develops because of the increased use of water and pollution of the sources (Qaddos, 2018). China has had the lowest per capita of available water for a populous nation which is one of the average reasons for the nation's development. This indicates the reduction in the fact of water for every capita for more than 20 years (Qaddos, 2018). Meanwhile, the current water demand is growing by about 10% every year in the Chinese cities and more than 5% in the industries.

The current principal reduction in water availability has dramatically affected the current critical shortage in the availability of drinking water in the massive population of China. More than 25% of every Chinese do not have access to drinking water (Liang & Min, 2014). About half of the largest cities in China do not have enough water, and 108 are poor, while 60 are considered critical. By 2030, China has predicted that there will be water shortages every year, and this is expected to reach about 200 billion m<sup>3</sup>.

The water shortages are encouraged by the ever-increasing pollution in the country to a nature never seen before. Almost all of the underground acquirers among the Chinese that supply about 70 per cent of the drinking water in the country have been polluted (Repieva, 2014). More than half of the population in many Chinese cities drink highly contaminated water. More than three-quarters of the surface water flowing in the country is not safe for drinking or fishing, and about 30% is not secure for industry and agriculture due to contamination (Repieva, 2014).

The water problem in the country has affected the regional dimensions. The South has a high amount of water than the North, which demands more. This has led to increasing

differences in the region, which has worsened over time. While about 45% of the Chinese population and 60% of the agricultural area in the North, there is only about 13.8% of freshwater (Repieva, 2014). This amount of water is available for about 25% per capita, compared to the amount of water available in the South.

Another major factor that led to this development of conflict between the Chinese and the Indians is the presence of activities by the Chinese upstream. To assist the South and the North in the division, the Chinese started a massive project for diversion of water through three different routes, the east-west and a central one (Liang & Min, 2014).

The presence of project diversion in the different routes that have been completed in the Han Rivers in the Yangtze in the different areas of the Yellow River. The other way is under development. This will be diverted to the various tributaries to a portion upstream of the river in the country's West towards the Yellow River (Repieva, 2014). However, over the last three decades, officials and scholars in China have proposed going above and beyond this project by diverting water from different areas upstream in the regions between Salween and Mekong through the Tibetan boundary.

India considers this to be one of the diversions plans with increased trepidation due to its effect on the flow of the river downstream as it enters the country through the border. This river has a major significance for the Indian people. One of the reasons for the importance of the river is that it is one of the rivers that cover 29% of all the water on the surface in the Indian city (Liang & Min, 2014).

Second, it brings together more than 44% of the entire hydropower potential in the country. However, the upstream activities by China will bring down the runoff and the potential. Considering the population of India, which is projected to grow by more than 500 million by 2050, water diversion is a significant issue that affects the country.

However, there have been no approved plans for water diversion from the Yarlung Tsangpo River. However, India is still majorly concerned about the country's future intentions. In 1999, the state council in China created a task force for experts from the Water Resources Ministry and the Resources and Land and other agencies that conducted the different field studies of the diversion plan. A report was developed by the task force, which supported the program for diversion as indicated.

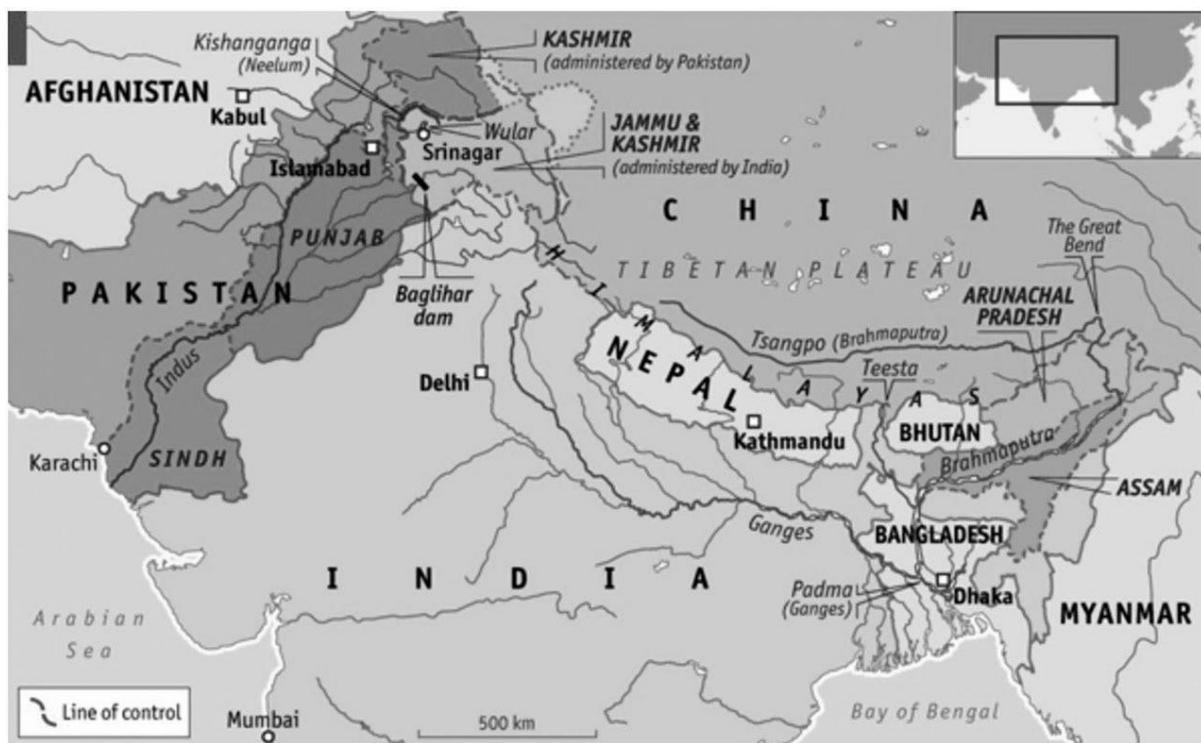
There have been multiple Chinese experts that have been against the technical feasibilities of the diversion plans. In 2000, the water resources minister indicated that the project was not viable economically, and the successor echoed this. In 2006, the Engineering Academy for the Chinese, in consultation with different experts and academics, produced reports different from those found by the task force in 1999 and highlighted that the diversion plan was not viable because of the developmental nature of the country.

These different conflicting indicators have increased the present debates on the current intentions of water diversion plans for the western route (Postel & Wolf, 2001). Meanwhile, China has officially announced the development of five major reservoirs on the Yarlung Tsangpo River, with the primary purpose being the generation of hydroelectric instead of water diversion (Liang & Min, 2014). In the fall of 2014, there was a completion of the development of the Zangmu Dam, and this was one of the hydropower dams in the Yarlung Tsangpo River (Liang & Min, 2014). Many individuals in India believed in the hydropower dams as an initial step in constructing the new infrastructure required for the diversion of water in line with the diversion plan.

There was a low likeliness for the diversion plans to go through because of the engineering difficulties and the costs; there is an increasing concern that Beijing will change the course of the current plans for water diversion. These plans do not transform the growing

scarcity of water (Postel & Wolf, 2001). If China goes on, there would be an increase in the tensions between India. When examined by the current linkages between national sovereignty, these tensions would be one of the most problematic.

Another driving factor for the conflicts is the presence of the dispute of the Arunachal Pradesh between the Indians and the Chinese. This is how the Chinese Yarlung Tsangpo gets into India as Brahmaputra River. Both countries claim this region (Repieva, 2014). A dispute over the boundary is critical since it is a major determining factor for the two nations. China cannot give away its claims to their lands without having a weakened claim on the sovereignty threat over Tibet forcefully taken away in the 1950s. For India, this land area is where the Chinese defeated them in 1962.



*The Arunachal Pradesh Area*

From the perspective of the Chinese, control of the area politically is significant because of security, integrity, territory, and sovereignty. The Chinese Communist Party

claims that the dominance of China over Tibet traces back more than 700 years to the Yuan Manchu Dynasty (Repieva, 2014). Additionally, according to the CCP, the sovereignty of the nation over Tibet is critical in restoring the country's security and national pride.

After the Qing Dynasty fell in 1911, there was an exploitation of the weakened condition by recognizing Tibet as a free state and negotiating redeveloped borders (Repieva, 2014). After the destruction of the Qing Dynasty, the Indian organizations were in the Great Britain colony, and they hosted meetings among the different representatives from Tibet and Great Britain. In these meetings, they developed new borders, which was in line with the Simla Accord of 1914.

This understanding led to creating two border sets between Tibet and India (Field & Kelman, 2018), and as Liang & Min (2014) notes, the boarder lines were named after after diplomats from Great Britain. However, China did not acknowledge the agreement since they maintained their claim that Tibet was still a Chinese territory and could not make their own decisions together with other parties internationally (Field & Kelman, 2018). The leadership from China focused on ensuring that the Simla Accord was recognized and understood even though the Mc Mahon Line was present. It would highlight that Tibet was a free state with powers to make treaties. This statue would be different from the legitimate centuries among the Chinese for more than 100 years on their claim over their sovereignty in Tibet.

In understanding this, the Arunachal dispute, there was a link to the main issue and the claim of the Chinese over the Tibetan sovereignty (Postel & Wolf, 2001). After the invasion and occupation of the Chinese in Tibet in 1950, the two lines became borders of contests between the Chinese and the Indians. Arunachal Pradesh became the location of the war between the Chinese and the Indians. The Chinese bought in more than 20,000 km<sup>2</sup> of the territory among the Indians, which led to the infliction of multiple heavy casualties (Jain,

2021). Since then, there have been disputes on Arunachal Pradesh. This remained to be a reason for argument in the Sino-India understandings. This developed to be a significant trigger for the military conflicts despite warming ideas and the increase in trade relations between these two countries.

Even before the visitation by President Hu in 2006, there was a claim that the ambassador to India from China made on the news that the region in the Arunachal Pradesh belonged to Beijing, which cast a shadow on Hu's visit (Field & Kelman, 2018). To highlight this point further, China did not agree to present a visa to Indians that visited this area as they maintained the understanding that this area belonged to them. In 2009, China did not agree to endorse a project by the Asian Development Bank in Arunachal Pradesh unless the project was meant for the Chinese.

Meanwhile, India went on to create a military base on Arunachal Pradesh. In 2008, when the Indian prime minister went to the province, he hinted at the development of infrastructure and a deployment package and an army chief that would be retired. This was to be posted to the governors (Dalton et al., 2020).

In 2009, there was a deployment of more than 60,000 soldiers that were presented to Assam near Arunachal Pradesh, and this brought more troops to the area to about 100,000. It also allowed for the development of more airfields in the foothills of the Himalayas. On the other hand, China focused on investing heavily in improving the military infrastructure in Tibet. This improvement allowed for the creation of fully operational air-based and multiple helipads. It also allowed for a well-established rail network in addition to 36,000 miles of road, which allowed them to have the ability to take the soldiers more than 30 divisions in the border rapidly, which gave them more of an edge over India.

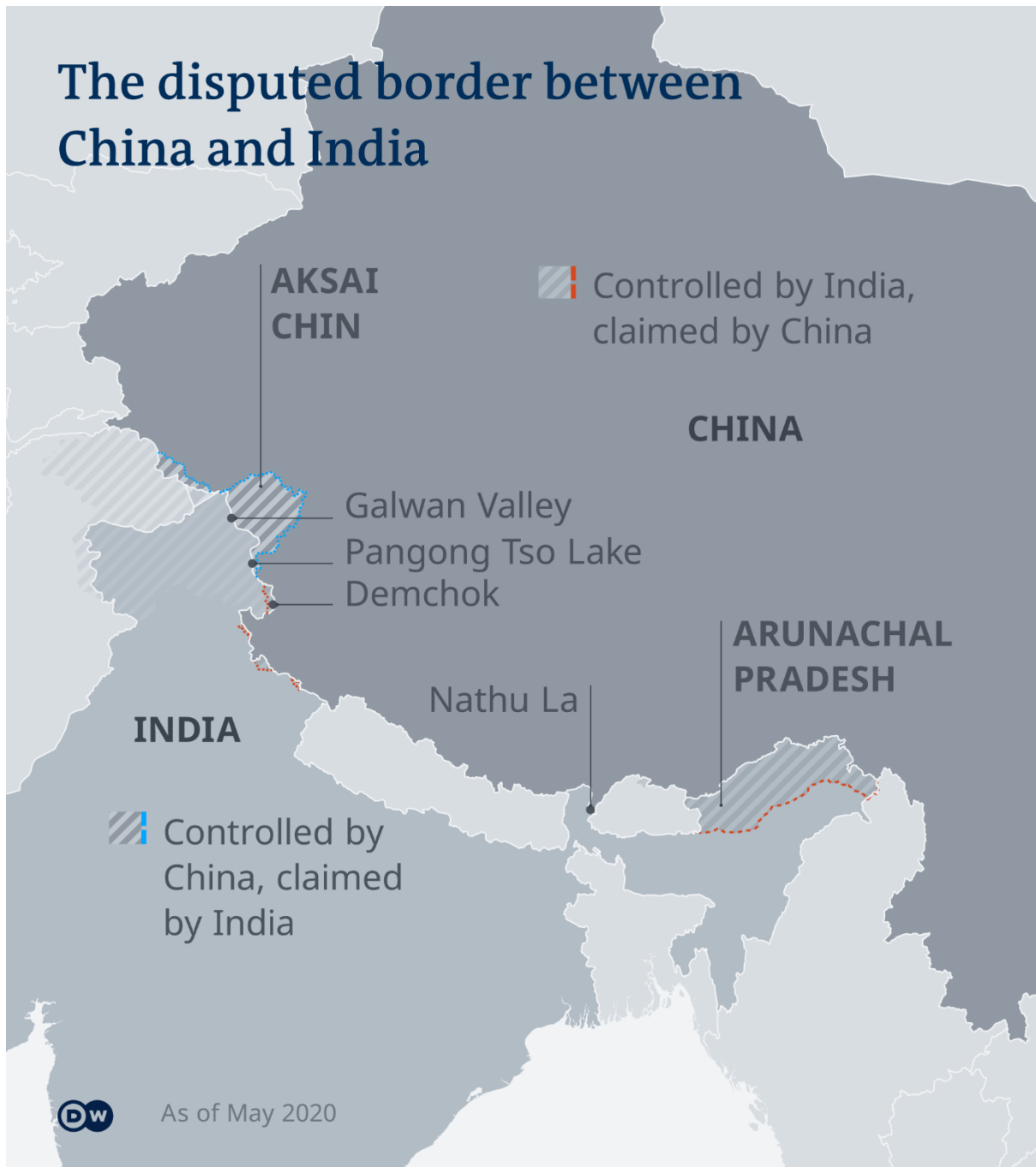
One of the other significant factors that could lead to conflicts in the area would be the rise in political instability in India (Field & Kelman, 2018). China faces an increase in domestic political instability, and this is because of a slowdown in the economy. This has led to a rise in popular nationalism, which makes it highly difficult for the CCP to undertake national interests objectively and in a manner that is not confrontational, especially when there are multiple issues linked to the sovereignty of the nation and the quality of life of the people (Dalton et al., 2020).

In the situations where water is scarce, as indicated during the case with the Brahmaputra River, both of these sides of the problem are present. With the growth in the scarcity of water in the area, CCP will find it difficult to ignore the cries for better and faster solutions which includes the diversion of the Brahmaputra River and different other rivers that move through the country to reduce the suffering from the people (Dalton et al., 2020). Therefore, since the Brahmaputra River is flowing in an area considered to be disputed, the ability of the CCP to make decisions in a manner considered collaborative with the neighbours will be increasingly important.

### **Implications for Conflict**

While the Chinese and the Indians have been through many talks towards peace, there have been no signs of a reduction in the tension between the two neighbours currently armed with nuclear weapons (Łuszczkiewicz, 2020). China and India have tens of thousands of troops backed by massive military hardware, including fighter jets and tanks in the region. Additionally, Chinese and Indian soldiers are ringing in the new year because they host their national flags in the Galway Valley, a base for multiple conflicting interactions.

## The disputed border between China and India



The current situation is fraught with the apprehension that anything can lead to war. The presence of a large number of equipment and troops develops a problem marred by a high degree of tension and uncertainty (Łuszczkiewicz, 2020). Similarly, there is a part of ongoing negotiations devoted to ensuring that there is a clash that does not occur.



There is optimism that India and China are working to ensure no clashes between them in the valley. There is a low likelihood that the incidences at Galway will be repeated at any point in the border. This is despite there being a possibility that there will be advanced disengagement which will be slow in the first half of the year since it is expected that there will be outcomes and progress.

### **Impact of Conflict on Economic Ties**

The disputes on the border have a lot of effects on other aspects of the relations between China and India, and this is mostly on investment and trade (Łuszczkiewicz, 2020). After the incident in Galway, the government of India banned multiple apps from the Chinese in India as they sought to limit the investment of the Chinese in various sectors and companies, and it is also subjected to the Chinese imports for extra scrutiny (Łuszczkiewicz, 2020). However, in 2021, bilateral trade between these two nations crossed \$125 billion, with the Chinese imports recording about \$100 billion.

The entire conflict issue between India and China is critical. It affects multiple factors in the two nations, highlighting the pointlessness of the conflict as they all rely on each other and their populations for their economic relations with China (Łuszczkiewicz, 2020). The leverage Indians have is that of a big market for Chinese exports. However, the issue of good economic ties may not affect the conflict between the two nations. Despite the presence and an increase in the trade volumes of the two nations, the overall momentum for the strategic issues has dramatically affected the relations (Łuszczkiewicz, 2020). It cannot be denied that the case in the border remains critical to the overall ties.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### Data Analysis and Discussion

The Sino-Indian conflict has affected different facets of the relations between the two nations. There is an increasing unconnectedness between the two nations and this is striking. The conflict in all its different ways has affected the bilateral trades between the different nations. While the two countries have been growing continuously, there is a small share of trade between the two nations (Bhonsale, 2018). Most of the main strategic partnerships between these nations have been made by third parties as proxies for the two nations. These includes nations such as Pakistan and United States. Interactions between different societies and two countries is negligible even though there is an increase in interpersonal trade connections between these nations. However, movement of flights between these two nations started only in 2002 and in 2007, while the combined populations of visitors between the two countries is more than 2 billion and they exchanged only 570,000 visitors between them (Bhonsale, 2018).

In the same way, there is a limited understanding on the foreign policies of each of the nations as well as the contemporary policies, society and history. In India, majority of the assessment were linked in the past where there was no understanding of those that drove the Chinese policy. According to leaders of the military, while there have been a lot of water that has moved through Tsangpo unaffected (Bhonsale, 2018). There has been a reduced amount of attention from academic journals on the conflict between the Chinese and the Indians and this is more about the Chinese and the Indians that it is about the extraneous actions such as those presented by the Soviets and the United States as well as the issues that are usually multilaterally managed such as climate change and non-proliferation.

Little efforts have been put to focus on a dialogue that is widely gauged by the Sino-Indians. These dialogues should not be based on the presence of similarities between the Chinese and the Indians and their Asian characteristics (Zhang & Li, 2013). China and India have many differences compared to similarities both as economies and as societies. One of the main coincidences between these two nations is that they have a strong pursuit towards consolidation of the homes and they have a foreign policy pragmatism that is underpinned on aspirations towards an increased status in the power between different nations. A critical wild card could be focused on domestic sub-nationalist ideas that seem to affect the two nations both of which have differing characteristics and consequences (Garver, 2011).

India has been able to survive as a nation through coming together with mostly weak and conciliatory security and political responses to different separatist and insurgent movements. On the other hand, China majorly relies on the effects of the state as they bring down different kinds of uprising as seen in Xinjian and Tibet. Unrests in the Chinese territories linked with ethnicity in different territories such as Mongolia, Manchuria, Taiwan, Tibet and Xinjiang have been considered to be a major vulnerability in the country since these episodes often lead to increased foreign involvement (Chong, 2016). Additionally, the legitimacy of the Chinese leadership is often questioned during these moments and this mainly affects the ruling communist party.

Therefore, while the idea is largely incomprehensible currently, Tibet has the ability to initiate a Sino Indian conflict in future and not because of the strategic value of this but because a revolution in Tibet may make the leadership in the nation to demand increased unreasonable concessions from the Indians (Lu, 2007). In the same way, changes in the economic fortunes of the nation may lead to the transformation in the nationalistic foreign policy. While leaders in the country since Deng Xiaoping have been seen to present different

forms of tendencies considered pragmatic there are multiple events that have occurred and led to protests in Tiananmen as well as other events in Xinjiang and this could lead to the empowerment of nationalists that prefer to be left alone and those that like their domestic purity.

Creation of ideas that move in this direction within the Chinese nations could lead to increased setbacks in different relations as seen with Indians as this will ensure that the stage is set for increased confrontations such as increased incidents at the borders (Maxwell, 2011). It is also feared that sustaining the downturn in the economy could lead to the undermining of the relations between India and China through the threatening of the legitimacy of the Chinese state and this could motivate the leaders in the country to try to distract citizens from the domestic problems through the provocation of confrontations further afield.

From the perspective of the Chinese, respecting and understanding the sensitivities of the Indians is also critical. The future of the Pakistanis is also a critical factor on the relationships between the Chinese and the Indians and the future of the Kashmir is relevant to maintaining a positive relationship between the Indians and the Pakistanis (Maxwell, 2011). Thus, any attempt by the Chinese to secure gains for the Pakistanis on the Kashmir issue would be relevant for the Indians. For instance, a recent decision made by the Chinese for separate visas to residents that live in the Kashmir region on the Indian side created a small diplomatic issue between the two nations. These kinds of moves are different from the general thrust of the policy from China since the 90s.

Integrity of the Indian territory has consistently affected the minds of majority of the Indians ever since the nation gained independence in 1947, where there have been more than 500 princely states and this has been incorporated to the Indians compared to all the other post-colonial states and their abilities. With this kind of approach in the border between the Chinese and the Indians, this could be seen to be irreversible (Maxwell, 2011). Ever since the

formation of the PRC, the Chinese has created and established clear borders with most of the other party nations around the country. Formulations were made by previous governments in the 50s that has developed a fast settlement for the conflict where the Indians were supposed to drop their claims on the sector of the west in exchange for the increased concessions of the eastern areas (Qaddos, 2018). The proposals created by the Chinese were not accepted by the leaders in India at the time. However, due to increased political pressure in the nation, there was a need to revive the plan once more.

Currently, even minor reports of incursions from the Chinese side into the areas considered to be disputed are always approached with increased coverage by the media and increased opinions and this is mainly because China is considered to have increased threats. Increased incidents of this kind may lead to a reaction from the Chinese and this would be driven majorly by the political factors that could affect the relationship between these two countries majorly (Qaddos, 2018). While successive governments in India have guided against these outcomes. While the legitimacy of the States in China is hinged in the economic model, that of the Indians is placed on the political approach taken in the country. The ability of the Indians to use the different interests as they compete for the resources in the state within the political nature, have led to increased amounts of political capital.

Over the past few years, the democratic credentials of the country have allowed the people in the country to enjoy the positive effects of the multilateral understandings and regimes especially with the use of nuclear technology relative to the increased socioeconomic development (Guihong, 2005). Due to the increased development of the economy, the Indians have increased their stakes and they have developed an increased claim to increasing the productivity and vibrance of the society. If the political fortunes of the Indians would have transformed mainly because of a rise in the political ideologies with China would deteriorate

(Guihong, 2005). In the same way an increase in separatist or extremist violence in India and the majority of the regions in the periphery or that of the Maoists and the Naxalite violence that is focused on the Indian state as this may affect the analysts in the nation and the processes they used to highlight the involvement of the Pakistanis and that of the Chinese.

One of the main threats to the relationship between the Indians and the Chinese develop majorly from the differing views that people had in history in the decision-making process on the final destiny of Tibet. For the Chinese understanding and recognizing Tibet as part of the Chinese is seen to be conditional and grudging (Xuecheng, 2011). The role it has since it hosts the Dalai Lama as well as the presence of the splitters group and the use of Beijing as a major point of understanding would make it look like the Chinese are a threat to the development of peace and understanding in the nation. For majority of the Indians, repression in Tibet by the Chinese is seen to be painful and many Indians often hope that this would be unsuccessful (Xuecheng, 2011). Proper management by these capitals would be required to ensure that there are developments that are related to Tibet and those that assist in the creation of relationships between the Indians and the Chinese.

The Chinese and the Indians are placed on a critical place in history. The rise of the Chinese is reinforced by a change in the approaches used by the US and the creation of challenges that prevented them from going into the Chinese and this is seen to be obvious for everyone. Beijing has a major role and card and this was important in creating a major role for the nation and itself during the management of the economy in different parts of the world. (Muratbekova, 2018). Investments of the country is large and it may continue to grow, these investments are however mostly majored at the general containment and deterrence of Taiwan. These different designs were developed in the Indian ocean and assisted in fueling

the anxieties presented by the Indians that were not seen to be essential in the objective of Beijing (Muratbekova, 2018).

The achievements of India both economically or otherwise while considered to be impressive are in no way the same as the Chinese. Some of the major challenges that remained were with the Prime Minister and the absence of his ability to point out the presence of fights against poverty while the state lacked the ability to undertake the task. The innovative approaches that were introduced in these different years are currently focused on boosting incomes and they are meant to short circuit opportunities for corruption and this ensure that there is reason for hope.

India and China are rising Asian powers that have guided the creation and shaping of the current distribution and movement of power around the world. They have done these through increasing their prominence within the machinery of security and economic diplomacy as well as the ardor within which these are seen to be courted with different actors around the world. The current economic society around the world is developing and it has Brazil, India and Russia as essential nations that have the ability to speak with the authority on different issues that affect the world and different societies. This has allowed them to contribute to the common voice presented around the world (Hongyu, 1995). However, apart from being considered as a critical voice and the status they have as a critical power in the world, the Chinese has been able to present and articulate this in a public manner.

In a society considered to be multipolar where the power principles are engaged in different issues and areas in society, India and China need to have the ability to manage the rise in the absence of shock in the country (Hongyu, 1995). A currently critical dialogue, that goes well beyond the increased level visits and the presence of differences instead of emphasizing imagine similarities and this could lay a foundation for an improved

understanding of different compulsions that were affected by the different nations. Policies in different parts of the world, assist different areas and nations to manage the impulses of their actions and convert the perceptions of the public to ensure that they are able to pre-empt situations before the move on to be full blown confrontations.

### **The Sino-Indian Conflict and Bilateral Relations**

There is great dependence between China and India in terms of trade and this has grown more than 24 times over the last fifteen years. The trade volume between the two countries was 2.9 billion and this has increased to about 70.8 billion in 2016 (Ali, Khan & Gul, 2019). This is the 17<sup>th</sup> largest Foreign Direct Investment in India in 2016 as many companies in China are utilizing the Indian manpower through the establishment of their units of manufacturing based in India. In terms of the equations of trade between the two countries, China is seen to have an upper hand while India depends on it. The deficit of trade between India and China has gone up to reach upwards of 46 billion while the exports of China to India constitute of only 2% of the total of all the exports (Ali, Khan & Gul, 2019). In spite of this small percentage of exports, China would not underestimate India as a promising market for the products. Probably this is a reason China did not allow for the Indian pilgrims to pass through Nathu-la but did not prohibit trade in between this area during the Doklam standoff.

The approach taken by China in this situation illustrates that the Chinese want smooth movement in the economic activities of this region, no matter the tense nature of the border situation. However, on the Indian side, there have been calls from different parties to boycott products from China (Ali, Khan & Gul, 2019). Their view was that through doing this, they would make the Chinese to surrender to their demands. However, their demands did not seem realistic since majority of the products in the Chinese were high in demand. Additionally, the



products from the Chinese were cost-friendly and they were of high value and were not of traditional nature such as cotton and yarn, they were mostly instruments used in hardware and telecommunication instruments.

Therefore, having a boycott of goods from China, could assist the Chinese less but this could harm them more in the course of having a solution for the order conflict. The Chinese had a mistaken belief that through boycotting of Chinese, India would have leverage and this would pressurize the Chinese to surrender (Scott, 2008). While the boycott had the ability to affect the Chinese, the magnitude of the effects of this were overrated by those that demanded it. It would not be that much help to India since India was in dire need of those products especially for pharma items, smart phones and information technology apparatus. India was not able to afford to get the products from other nations with the weak economy since in that case it would have to compromise on the low-quality products presented at high rates (Scott, 2008). Therefore, India was supposed to think twice before creating a ban on the products created by China and vice versa.

Due to this interdependence in the economy, majority of the defense and strategic analysts believe that both these nations will prepare for war but they would never like to plunge into war and this is what was seen to happen. If the Chinese went into war with India, there would be increased costs for this. There would be a large set back for the manufacturing industry since India imports more than 58.33 billion worth of goods from China (Bhonsale, 2018).

While China also imports goods from India this are only at \$11.76 billion. Therefore, China is only in an advantageous position and it therefore would want to maintain it at this. Similarly, China will also not want to risk the reputation it has developed over the years with a war with India since the current stage it is in is in the economy expansion throughout the

region and in the globe with the One Road, One Belt project (Bhonsale, 2018). To fulfill this dream, it is important for the Chinese to come up as a critical superpower in the world. China need to come out as a responsible and peaceful action in the international realm to be able to achieve this and act as international police in the same way the United States has.

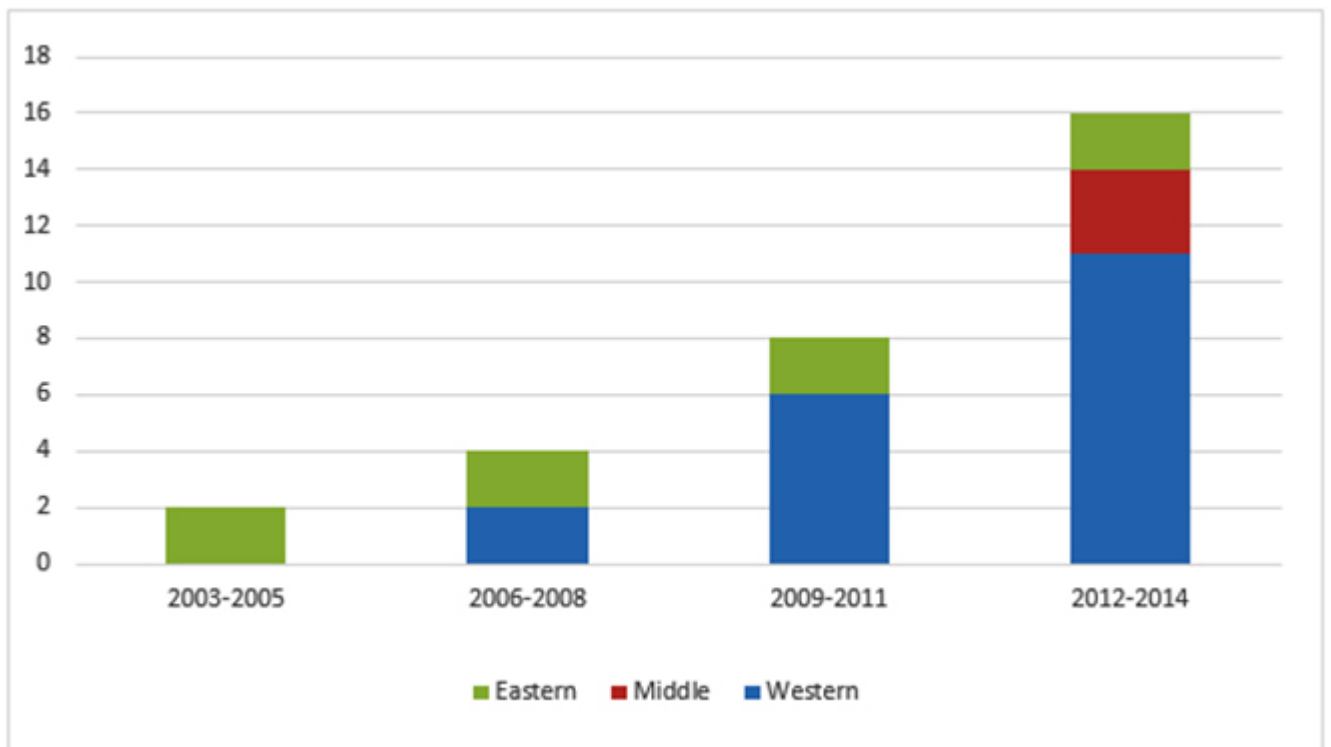
On the other hand, there is a lot of fears by the Indians on a humiliating defeat at the Chinese hands since a defeat would not be forgiven. The political demands of India have not been delivered and it is critical for the Indian government to have a daring stand on the issue and avoid causing war as much as possible. If the relations with the Chinese develops to be worse, it will largely affect the Indian economy and this will be detrimental for the government and the political trust the people have on it (Zhang & Li, 2013). If the relations with China go on to be worse, it will have a destructive effect on the economy. Therefore, India will also be preferred in resolving the conflict with the Chinese through negotiations and this will lead to a destructive war due to the costs of war.

Due to the reasons illustrated, the conflict in the border is seen to have been diffused mainly because the Chinese claim that India has withdrawn troops from the region but the Foreign Minister illustrates that the Chinese troops will be maintained in the region to ensure that they exercise their control and maintain their sovereignty in the region. China did not give a clear indication on the plan it has of road construction whether it will continue with it or not. According to the Foreign Minister in China, all the things that affect the development of roads which include the ground situation and weather. Similarly, China has opened up the conflict area routes to allow pilgrims to visit the Kialash Mountain because of the damage to the process of the people to people exchange (Zhang & Li, 2013). China values the efforts of the Indians to recreate the international relations that they had already developed in the summits held in 107 making them focused on improving the entire region.

## **Incidents at the Sino-Indian Border**

There are several incidents that were reported in the newspapers with the number going up to about 68. These incidents were presented and there was a need to have an actual number of incidents which ensures that all the unique and critical incidents are separated. An analysis of three newspapers indicated that there were thirty unique incidents and these shall be used to analyse the Sino-Indian conflict. Spreading this out across twelve years it is clear that there were about 2,5 scenarios at the border. There was also a doubling of the incidents after every four year period starting from 2003 (Bhonsale, 2018). Incidents also increased four times between 2003 and 2008 and 24 times between 2009 and 2014.

### **Number of Incidents**



It is important to be able to differentiate the different incidents as they were reported as well as the reports presented by the government officials at the Sino-Indian border. Similarly, there were multiple incursions that were reported that went upwards to about 280. However only three incidents were considered to be major by the newspapers. Of all the thirty incidents, the West was affected by 19 incidents, the mid-section had three while the East had 8. Therefore, majority of the incidents were seen in the West. In percentages, the West had 63.3% of the insurgence, while east had 26.7 percent as the middle had the remaining 13 percent (Bhonsale, 2018).

Majority of the incidents that were reported in the West were because of the boundary in the Ladakh Tibet region. This is the 1,600-kilometre-long area which has a lot of disputes from the Aksai Chin to the Himachal Pradesh with incidents spread in between. There were several more incidents that were seen to be in the West most of which had been reported

around the boundary and the Ladakh Tibet region. Exceptions can be made of the sectors in the Daulat Beg Oldi sector where the region was at the Aksai Chin area. These places in the West considered to have more than six incidents were reported and this indicated that there was a spread throughout the whole Tibet Autonomous region (Zhang & Li, 2013). There were several incidents that were covered in a span that ranged from the North area to the different areas along the Indian border toward the southern areas.

In the middle sector the greatest number of incidents were reported in 2012 and this created a record for the most incidents in one year (Zhang & Li, 2013). These different issues were the once that were considered to have occurred in the entire period between 2003 and 2014. Most of these were incidents that occurred aurally and were seen to occur over the state of Himachal Pradesh. A report highlighted that the Chief Minister in the Dhaul state provided information to the center of the violations of the international border. Leaders in this area had claims that there were about 37 incursions that were initiated by the Chinese forces and this occurred along the 350-kilometer border shared by the Chinese (Zhang & Li, 2013). Similarly, these leaders indicated that there were six more incursions that were reported in 2006 and two in the following year after which 10 were reported in 2009 and 11 more in 2009. However, during this entire period there no incidents that were reported to have occurred in the Middle Sector.

Two incidents were recorded to have occurred in the Eastern areas and this incidents were seen between the years of 2007 and 2012. As indicated in the table, they were all seen to have been undertaken in 2006 while the rest were undertaken within the period from 2012 and 2014. There was also one that took place in 2013 and there was no other that occurred in Sikkim's. There have been only two incidents that have been reported in sectors towards the east in 2007 while the rest were reported in the West as shown in the Table.

Of all the incidents that were seen to have occurred in the Eastern area before 2008, two were seen to be in 2007 and 2003 and 2005 had one each. These incidents occurred in 2007 and they were seen to be in the Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh areas of the Thagla Ridge. These incidents occurred in 2005 and 2003 respectively. The incidents of 2003 were linked with the former prime minister Vajpayee's visit to the Beijing in June, troops in the Chinese were seen to intrude in Asaphila in 2005 and this kept the sectors to the east as the main focus of the discourse and boundaries (Chong, 2016). The incidences that occurred in 2005 also occurred shortly after the visit of the former prime minister of China to India.

### **Kinds of Incidents**

There were more incidents that occurred on the ground compared to those that occurred through the air, and there were twenty-four aerial ones to six others. Out of all these three incidents, the middle sector was determined and these were considered to be in the middle sector compared to the state of Himachal Pradesh (Chong, 2016). Chinese helicopters were seen to have entered the airspace near the Kaurik and Lapcha areas in the tribal districts of Kinnaur and Spiti. There is nothing that is considered to be a major incident except that it is mentioned by the generals of police in the border. While there is limited details of aerial insurgence reported in the newspapers, the TH report indicate that the Chinese led 28 aerial violations through the LAC between 2010 January and 2013 July.

The agreements made by the two countries regarding peace and understanding throughout their border areas between the Chinese and the Indians as well as the agreement made in 1996 were developed with the hope that this would create measures that would

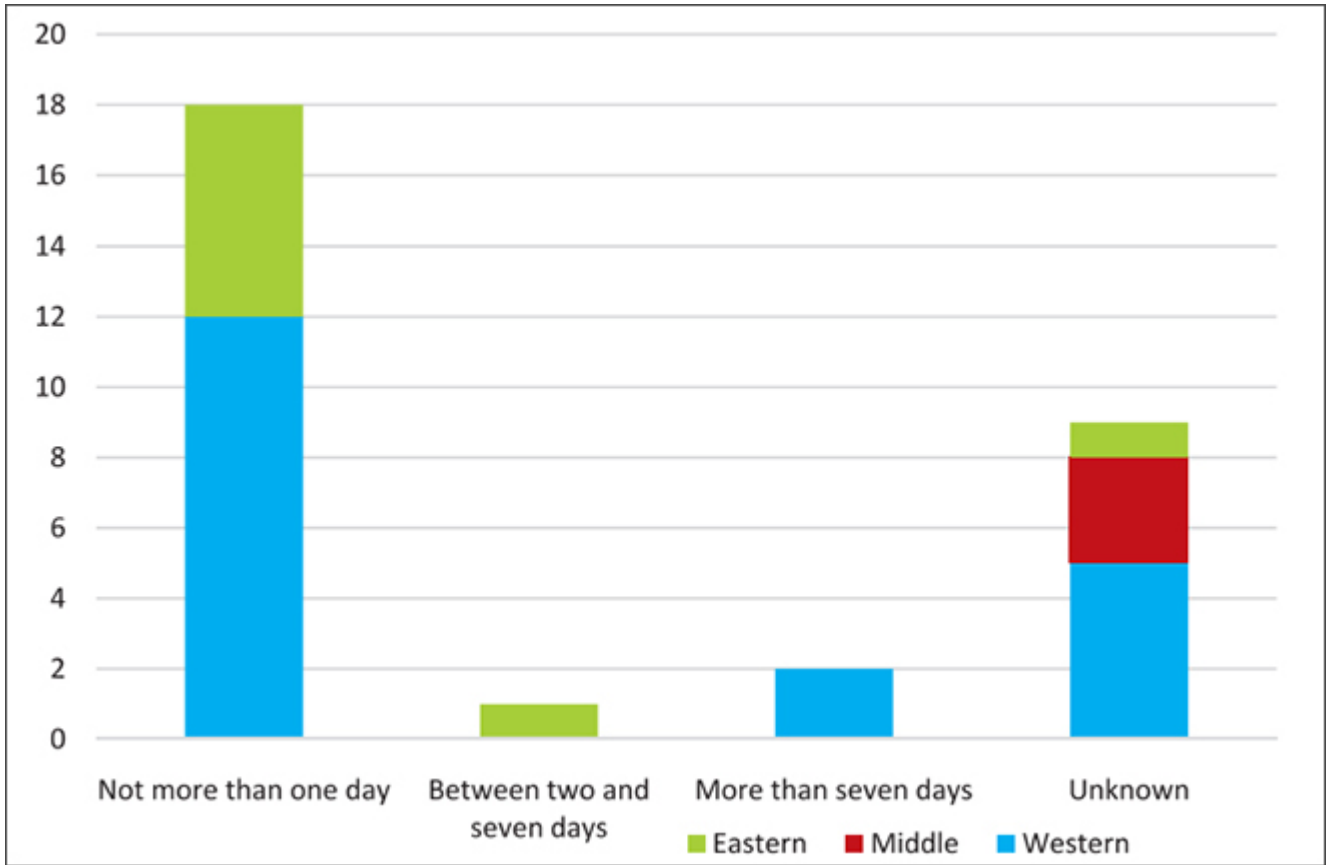
prevent intrusions through the air along the agreements made by the LAC in 1996.

Agreements made in 1996 state that combat aircrafts are not allowed to fly within 10km of the LAC (Qaddos, 2018). The agreement only allowed unarmed transport aircrafts, and survey helicopters and aircraft. Incidents that were reported in 2012 were that the Chinese helicopters went through to the Indian areas and it is highly possible that the airplanes being mentioned were mostly unarmed and may have crossed into the LAC unintentionally. There are not combat aircrafts that have been seen to cross either of the borders over the years.

### **Incident Durations**

Incidents in the border between India and China were seen to go through in about few minutes to mostly about three weeks. The incidents and insurgence within the border were classified to be at not more than a day, between two to seven days and more than seven days. According to the Table below, the maximum number of incidents that were recorded did not last more than a day and this was 60 percent of them. The duration remained unknown for a major part of the incidents. There is only a single incident that would have been seen to last more than seven days and this was in the Western areas. These lone incidents lasted between two up to seven days and they were in the East. For all the middle sector and the duration of incidents was not known well.

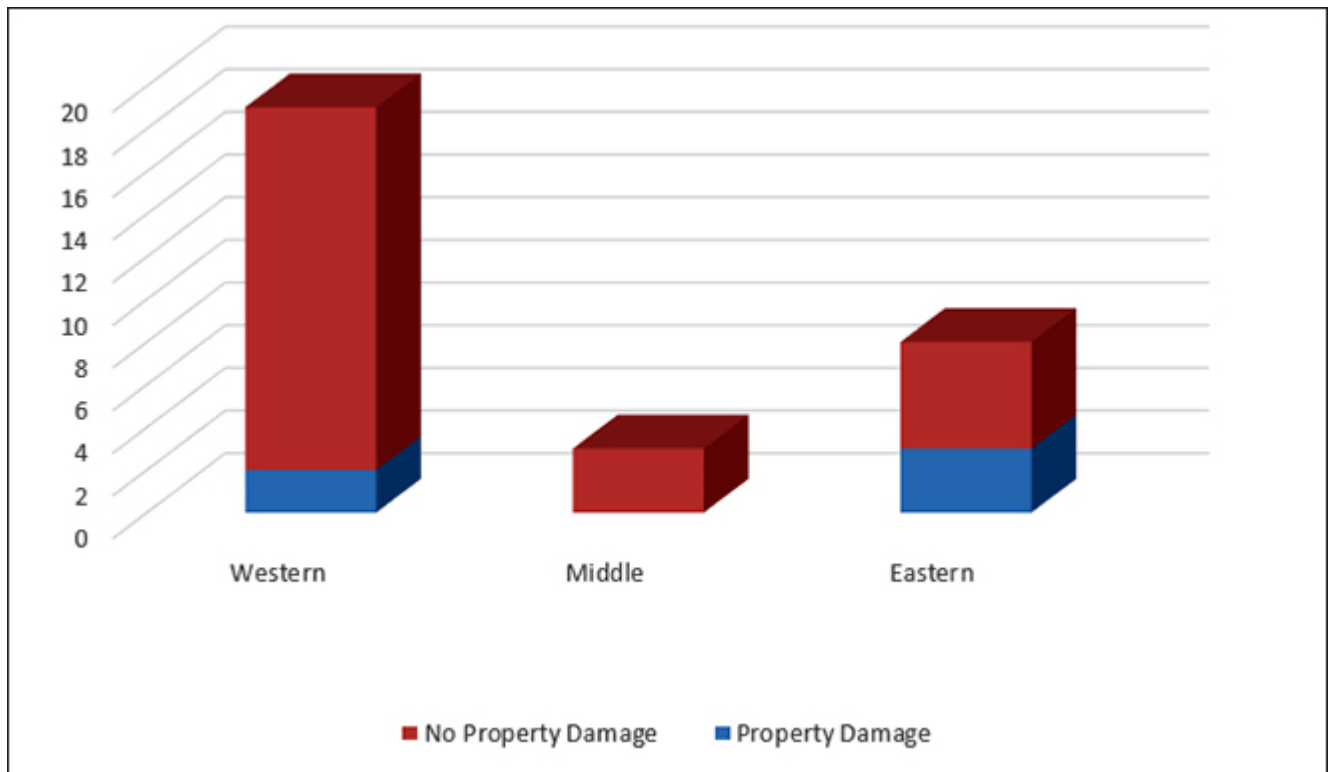
Only one incident lasted between two to seven days or 6.67 percent for more than seven days (Qaddos, 2018). The incidents that lasted for more than seven days were in the Western sector. These lone incidents that lasted between two to seven days were in the Eastern Sector. For every incident in the middle sector, the duration of the incident was not known.



### Impacts of the Incidents

The impacts of the incidents can be broken down into two main categories that depend on whether there is some damage that is made to the property and whether these damages were reported to the papers. Property is classified as any kind of installation, apparatus, development that is present on either sides of the borders and territories.

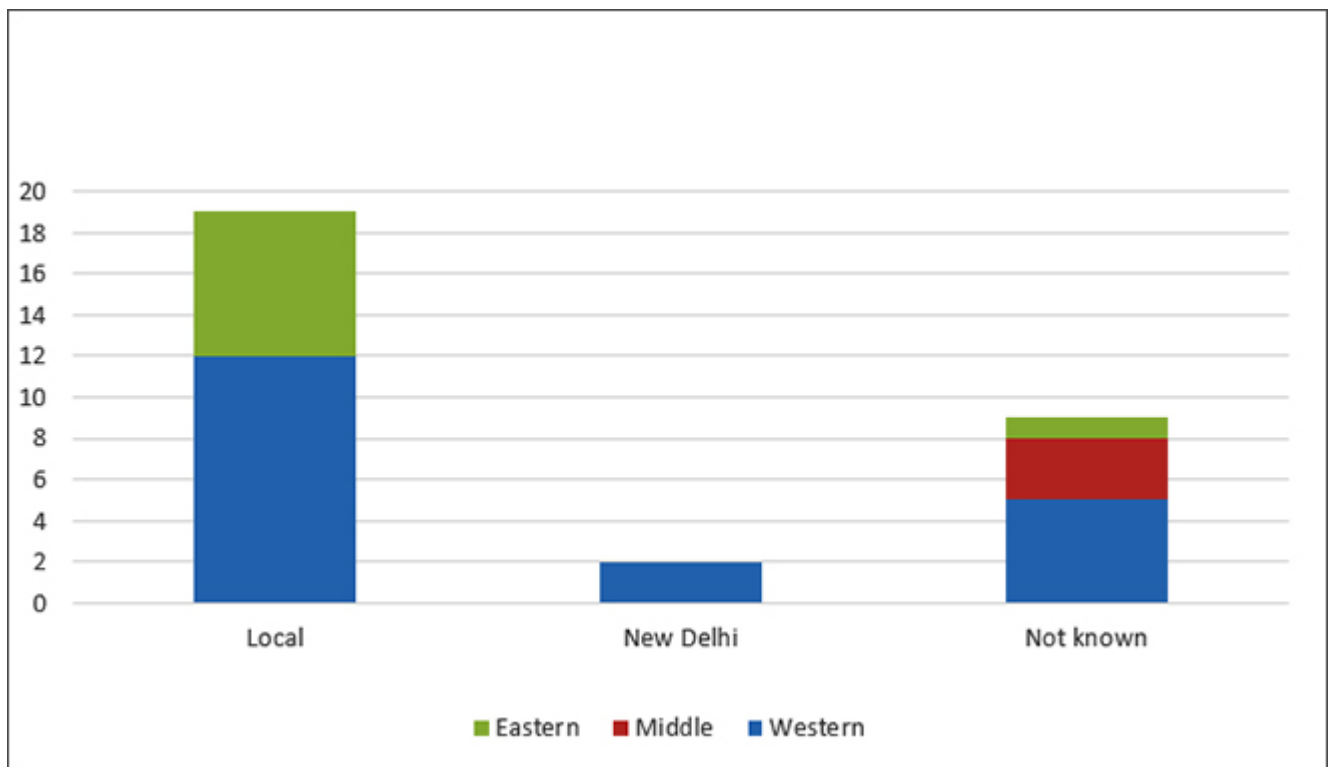




Majority of the incidents that were reported did not indicate that there was any damage that was made to property. Of all the thirty situations, no damages were done in 25 of them. Three of these five incidents led to increase damages of property in the sectors in the East and tw in the West. Therefore, the incidents highlighted that there was a lot of physical damage that was seen to be sporadic. In 2011 of all the incidents that were reported to have led to increased damage to property. A report was made that the Chinese had destroyed an artefact within the Indian territory within the Arunachal Pradesh area (Qaddos, 2018). Another incident that occurred was when the troops from the IE and PLA went through the Chumar sector in the Ladkh and destroyed the bunkers that had been created and cut wires to the cameras that had been installed in the border posts on the Indian side. (Qaddos, 2018). There were also reports that were made in the TH and TO. In 2013, a PLA patrol in Chumar left with a camera that had been created on the ground and this was about six kilometres ahead of the Indian army post. India is seen to have raised an issue with the camera and a personnel meeting after which it was seen to return.

## Response after Incidents

The discussed responses are considered to be official and reactions to the border incidents. It was considered to be a response that was varied depending on whether these were from the local army unit from the New Delhi Area. There are times where there were not specific responses to incidents that were reported and found. These responses often start out as shifted and local to New Delhi since they cannot be resolved locally (Qaddos, 2018). The only situations that were reached on a significant level often demanded a response from the ministry of defense and the affairs ministry. It is critical that on many different occasions through the English language press reported a major incident that there was no response from different authorities in the country.



As reported in the news, it is usually clear that most of these responses and incidences developed because of the army units that were based along the borders. They

responded to 19 of the entire thirty incidents that were reported in the borders. Another form of response was in form of increased manning of the area by forces from both sides. The Chinese would establish a border control center with large banners indicating that the area was Chinese territory. Additionally, the Chinese troops also created observation posts and these were meant to consistently watch the troops from India for them to monitor the patrol movement in India. When the patrol was about to move back, the Chinese intercepted the group and asked it to move back. Face-offs between the two nations were common place and they were both in the Western sector. A platoon from the Chinese territory came more than 10 kilometres towards the Indian territory and created a rented post. (Muratbekova, 2018).

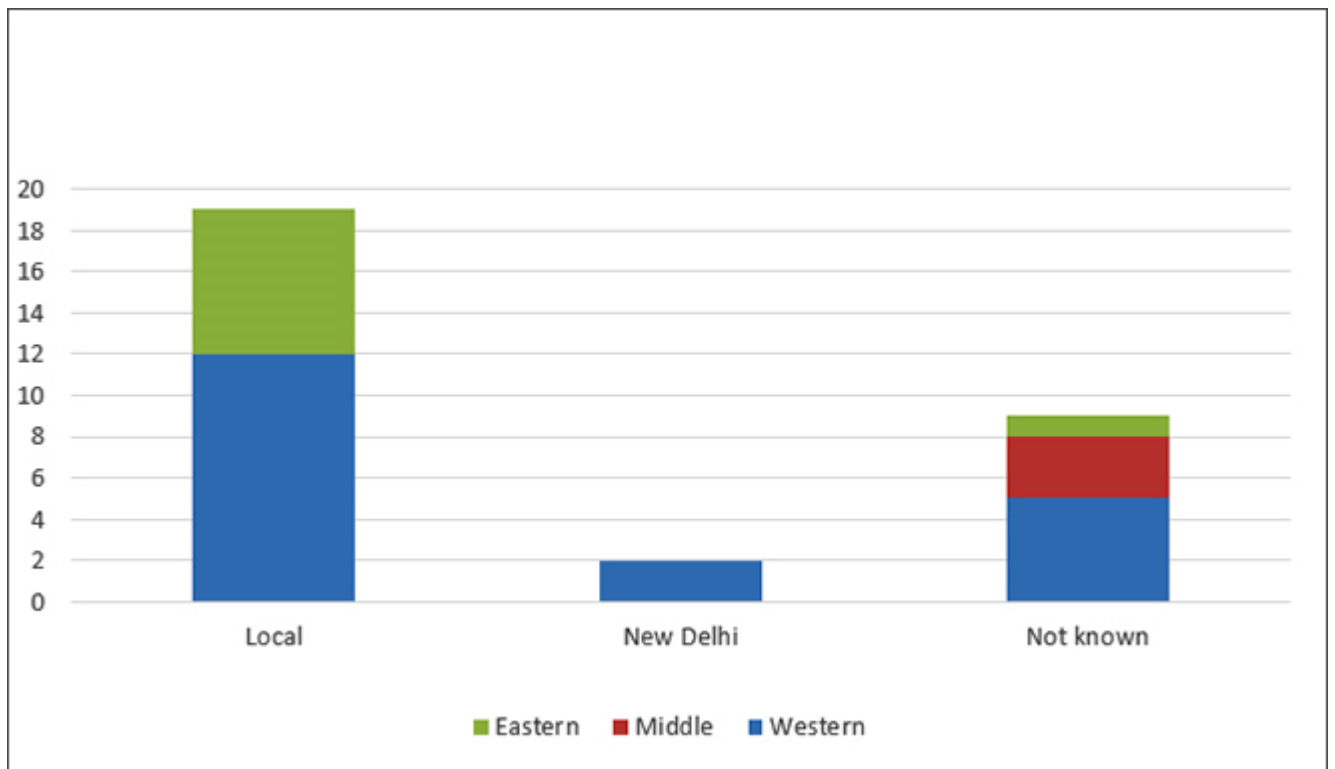
This led to the establishment of posts near the area and requests for meetings. It led to an army contingency to the area and this involved the government where there was a need for early resolutions of this issue. This issue was solved after the tented camps in the area reached five. This was solved and was seen to have gone up to the national advisor and the Indian ambassador who made the decisions with the Chinese counterparts to ensure that a solution was established.

### **Activities at the Border**

There are four kinds of activities that were reported at the border from both the Chinese and the Indians. These activities include, military exercises, extension of road and rail links, reinforcement of troops, and the deployment of defense apparatus. In line with the trends of the activities and incidents that occur at the border most of which were both undertaken by the Indians and Chinese and this totaled at 34 which averaged at about 2.83 activities every year (Muratbekova, 2018). Activities from the Indian side were more than

those of the Chinese side considering the reports presented by the newspapers and as seen at the sources

The activities recorded in the newspapers were seen to be about 25 and this were mostly seen on the Indian side while the Chinese side only reported 9 activities to the newspapers. Deployment and redeployment of the defense apparatus were most of the activities witnessed at the borders. Of all these activities, 17 of them were undertaken by the Indians and three were undertaken by the Chinese (Muratbekova, 2018). In the situation where troops were reinforced, it was seen that India participated in the reinforcement activities six different times while the Chinese only did this once. There were similar activities in terms of the construction of roads and rail links between these two nations and one of the activities were from the Chinese and Indians.



Among the Indians, the largest activity undertaken in the country was the deployment of defense apparatus. Among all those that were deployed, the defense

apparatus reported them in 2009 and this was one of the reasons and plans to allow Indians to have a restructured ITBP by equipping it with modern surveillance and weapons systems.

Among the four deployments of the defense apparatus reported in 2009, the first part was the plan by India to restructure the ITBP through equipping it with modern weapons and surveillance systems as well as well developed vehicles. There was a movement of military vehicles into sensitive areas in the North (Muratbekova, 2018). Formal induction of aircraft close to the Chinese border was also an activity that was reported. On the other hand, the Chinese were reported to have increased constructions within the area of the International borders that were considered to be conflicted areas. These constructions were used for different purposes such as stationing additional personnel and mounting cameras to monitor the troop movements (Muratbekova, 2018). The Chinese also added on an additional 50,000 troops and these were reinforcement troops to the Indians by the Chinese with the PLA in 2010.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### Conclusion

As seen, it is clear that the Sino-Indian conflict originated from the presence of military and it is rooted in the chronic, simmering tensions between the two countries. The conflict between these two nations is seen to be a military conflict that lasts with the two countries having eye to eye monitoring for long periods of time. However, these two nations have managed this conflict in a manner to ensure that they avoid a full-scale war even though the potential of an escalating of this conflict was considered to be high. Efforts in diplomatic were used with hard fought negotiations to avoid confrontations by the military and reduce the chances of escalations of the disputes in the territory.

Similarly, in the analysis of other factors that lead to the Sino-Indian conflict, the scarcity of water was seen to be a major factor. However, it is important to not just focus on the dynamics of the sharing of water and the scarcity of water or how the entire natural environment is deteriorating. War, as a political and human endeavor is a complex issue. In the same way, water scarcity may not by itself lead to war. However, coupling up the coupling up the scarcity of water with other factors such as the increase in scarcity of water at the source of transnational rivers as well as the threatening behavior in upstream of rivers as well as the creation of overlapping linkages between the national sovereignty and the reduction of political stability of the upstream state will increase the likelihood of war. The Sino Indian conflict has these characteristics.

Success in the peaceful efforts between these two nations has indicated a willingness of these two countries to safeguard a relationship with harmony. However, the standoff has yet again indicated a major fault line of conflict between two Asian giants. The conflict has not transformed into a major war and there is no progress that has been made regarding the

resolutions of the two nations. There is reduced probability of this in the near future since there is no development in the conflict area. However, it is not yet clear what the two sides will present to ensure that there is a permanent resolution to the conflict.

In understanding the effects of the modern warfare, the likelihood of open military action is considered to be rare. One of the reasons for this restraint is the preference of the Chinese not to let the issue affect the policy in the promotion of global regional connectivity in respect to the BRI. Therefore, the geo-economic interests have remained compared to the geo-political interests. It is therefore a test for both the Chinese and the Indians to manage the dilemmas they have in terms of security for them to be able to improve relationships between the two nations as the absence of this would affect the geo-political and the geo-economic interests of the two nations into a decline.

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