

Is OBOR by China fundamental to Human Progress? A non traditional viewpoint

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Abstract. This is a short note that gives a non- traditional view point of One Belt One Road (OBOR) plan by China by suggesting that it is not about Chinese efforts of supremacy on other lands but a prediction of human cognition that seem to suggest that OBOR may well be a step towards creating an intricate balance for the eco system of this planet.

Keywords. Economic integration, Political history, Applied cognition.

JEL. F15, F36, F50.

1. Introduction: OBOR, human cognition and natural eco system

China is probably the only country among the developing countries that has continued on a sustainable economic growth path above 6% since early 1980s. The Chinese miracle has many watershed moments. From controlling its exchange rate in lower valuation of Yen against Dollar in order to sweep international markets for its exports; to developing industrial zones that attracted multi billion dollar investements; to introducing private property rights in contrast to its communist governance structure to boost private business activity; to introducing regulation to create competition among national and international firms; to controlling for corruption to get public confidence in fiscal policy; and thus the story continues with China taking One Belt One Road (OBOR) initiative to reclaiming the traditional lore of globalization and international commerce highways known as the ancient Silk road (Please see Frankopan; 2015).

China's economic policies have been investigated upon for long since the advent of its recent economic success while some taking a critical view and most taking the note for the lessons for their own economic plans. The China model even gives peace a good chance. Despite a strong military orientation, China has mostly remained a peaceful country for the outside world with no significant conflicts alongside its borders or beyond.

Here in this article I would give a fresh perspective to what Chinese success should mean to the humanity and its survival and may it look farfetched or even trivial to some to have noted before. There is a saying of one of the most influential man in human history known to the Muslims as Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) that there would come a time in human history when a nation would rise with short heights and would be thirsty enough to even drink the waters of the oceans. Now we know that ocean water composition is high on salt and minerals and is undrinkable to the humans. So what did this parable of the prophet (PBUH) really mean?

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Well to explain what he really meant, I would like to bring your attention to a very popular movie of its time named 'Tommorrow never comes' that captured the attention of its audience world over for a scenario of devastated tsunamis that would be experienced world over after high impact earth quakes within the oceanic beds all over the world. Hollywood movies are part entertainment and part awareness campaign for many issues facing the world. The scenario is one of the seriously thought after possibility of the future simulated by environmental scientists.

But to dig deeper into the matter, this scenario is built in human cognition from ancient times even when they were giving linguistic expressions to their surrounding with help of some very simple verbal connotations. For example, simple number counting from 1 to 100 may tell that a digit comes in between that is called Seventy/Sattar/70. Sat means 7 in Urdu/Hindi language and Tar means wet. We know that there are seven oceans (seas). Well to avoid a scenario of global tsunami seven seas should remain on the shores of the lands where most of economically active cities reside. So how humanity should go about it? The prophet Muhammad (PBUH) suggests to facilitate the nation of China to make a economic presence on all the five continents of the world. This is what it means by them drinking the water from the oceans. So OBOR is about the very survival of humanity. Now to take the argument further and enlighten the traditional critics of Islam, Muslims are doing a favor to the world by bowing down five times a day on the lands of these five continents. One way of explaining this action for the benefit of humanity is that this action of submission to abstract God prevents the waters of 7 seas spilling onto lands where the best of human civilizations reside. So freedom of religion that is the hallmark of secularism and which allows muslims to built places of worship all over the world is a wise outcome of humanity's cognitive evolution. Let that evolution be for many reasons and may they all bring peace for humanity.

Well to stretch the argument further, Sattar also mean cloth in Arabic/Persian/Urdu/Hindi. Why humanity clad itself with clothing is also for many reasons. One of them is to prevent oneself from the calamities of natural weather conditions but also to take them off to show the same spirit of unconscious acceptance to the traditional fear that the 7 seas may remain on the shores of the 5 continents. Well this may also explain the beach culture in the West, where the white man and woman take sun bathing by taking off their sattars (clothing in English) yet confirming to 'Tomorrow never Comes'. So the contemporary world and its deeper understanding ask humanity to be moderate irrespective of any religious or non religious beliefs. Let every man and woman be happy in their own religion and its practice as long as it promotes peace and harmony amongst own social group and across groups is also one of the saying of prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

This short and trivial line of argument puts fore the point that it has always been about human survival on this Earth while co existing with its Eco System in balance. Our economic choices are intricately related with the eco system of this mother earth from a simple cognitive realization by giving it a written or verbal expression of 70 to an international economic plan with the likes of the new silk road in shape of OBOR.

References

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