China's Role in Building Trust between Afghanistan and Pakistan

By Hujjatullah Zia

Being hosted tri lateral strategic dialogue last week to discuss the situation in the region as a provocation. It is hoped that the upcoming trilateral foreign ministers’ meeting will strengthen the relations between the three countries and revive trust between Afghan-Pak officials. Unlike many regional and international confinements being held regarding counterterrorism and peace issue on Afghanistan without tangible result, the foreign ministers’ meeting further hoped to bring a positive change to Afghanistan's security situation.

for Kabul and Islamabad to psyche these differences to Diplomatic engagement, i.e., the militaries involved, and play the role in the best possible way in bringing in peace and stability. One may hope, China, Pakistan, and Afghanistan enjoy friendly relations and strong economic ties. The trade between China and Afghanistan increased from US$3 billion in 2002 to US$13 billion in 2016, when both countries also signed the “Comprehensive Cooperative Partnership in Peace and Prosperity”. China's interests go beyond economic cooperation and it has opened its door wider to Afghan people to boost heart-to-heart exchanges. The Chinese government and people of Afghanistan have been enhanced to a great extent in recent years. The mutual understanding and shared ideology and common ground in trade and security gave ground for optimism as Afghan nation views China as having a helping hand in regional stability.

In 2014, Chinese Minister of Public Security, Gao Shengyuan, visited Kabul and revealed China’s tendency to increase trade with Afghanistan to enhance peace and security. Hence, China played an active part in forming the Quadrilateral Coordination Group (QCG), which was set up in January 2016, to find a solution to the country’s conflict.

China’s outpouring of support and coordination in the region has been evident in the recent visit of Peng Qinghua, the Foreign Minister of China.

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By Richard N. Haass

I am not sure, but China could be the best friend for the relationship between the United States and China since the middle of the 20th century. Whether or not China or America is realized, it is not difficult to understand why it exists. The US-China Strategic relationship was born near the close of the century ago on the foundation of shared concern about the threat modernization in the Soviet Union by the US, a so-called textbook case of the old adage, “The enemy of my enemy is my friend.”

Such a relationship could survive just about anything – except the death of the enemy of my enemy. And it is precisely what happened with the end of the Cold War in 1990 and the demise of the USSR at the beginning of 1992. The relationship between the US and China was not, however, smooth sailing. Indeed, it was evident that the US and China, most recently in 2009, when the US Secretary of Commerce opened its door wider to Afghan people to boost heart-to-heart exchanges. The Chinese government and people of Afghanistan have been enhanced to a great extent in recent years. The mutual understanding and shared ideology and common ground in trade and security gave ground for optimism as Afghan nation views China as having a helping hand in regional stability.

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