



Dr. Ghulam Mohey-ud-din
@moheyuddin

Pakistan's Pasni Gambit: A Whisper of Rebalancing Between Beijing and Washington

A Strategic Analysis

Pakistan's Historical Balancing Act



Dr. Ghulam Mohey-ud-din
@moheyuddin

- Foreign policy oscillates between **alignment and autonomy**
- Always a **balancer** rather than a loyalist
- Leveraging location between Gulf, Central Asia, and Indian Ocean
- From Cold War alliance with US to CPEC with China
- Mastering the art of "**renting**" **geopolitical position** for survival and leverage



The Pasni Proposal: A Geopolitical Hedge



Dr. Ghulam Mohey-ud-din
@moheyuddin

- 📍 Informal US investment offer for **Pasni port** (75km from China's Gwadar)
- ↔ Signal to Beijing: Islamabad has **other doors** to knock on
- 🤝 Signal to Washington: Pakistan can still offer **access, if not allegiance**
- ↔ Pasni: "clean slate" vs. Gwadar's Chinese entanglement
- ⚖️ Psychological counterweight to China's monopoly on Pakistan's coastline



Economic Context: A Nation in Crisis



Dr. Ghulam Mohey-ud-din
@moheyuddin

- ✍ Pakistan is **broke again** - struggling to meet IMF conditions
- 💰 Rupee in freefall, debt repayments consuming fiscal capacity
- ⚡ CPEC momentum lost - Chinese disbursements slowed
- 🏢 Gwadar remains underdeveloped and unpopular locally
- 🕒 Beijing's patience with Pakistan's security and fiscal chaos wearing thin
- 💡 Offering Pasni: reviving foreign capital flows under the cloak of strategy



Security Challenges: The Balochistan Factor



Dr. Ghulam Mohey-ud-din
@moheyuddin

- ⚠️ Pasni lies in **Balochistan** - province simmering with insurgency and resentment
- 🚫 Baloch nationalists view Gwadar and CPEC as **symbols of exploitation**
- 🌐 "American foothold" in Balochistan would be radioactive domestically
- ⚡ Instant resistance from insurgents - anti-state sentiment too entrenched
- 🏢 No U.S. corporation would invest billions under such conditions
- 🛡️ Military might promise security, but regional politics too volatile



Geopolitical Calculus: Great Power Responses



Dr. Ghulam Mohey-ud-din
@moheyuddin



United States

- ! **Intriguing but not urgent** - Navy already has access through Oman, Bahrain, Diego Garcia
- ↗ Geopolitical symbolism of re-entry into Pakistan carries strategic weight



China

- ⚠ Viewed as **betrayal in slow motion** - erodes psychological assurance
- \$ Likely to respond economically: tightening credit, delaying CPEC phases



- ⚖ Pakistan may provoke its largest creditor at a moment when it can least afford to

- ↔ A **double-edged signal** that could restore balance or destroy trust

Conclusion: A Whisper of Rebalancing



Dr. Ghulam Mohey-ud-din
@moheyuddin

"This is not a realignment. It's a whisper. Pakistan is not choosing the United States over China; it's merely reminding China that choices still exist."

-  **Diplomacy as performance** - a stage whisper designed to echo in Beijing's ears
-  Offering what Islamabad no longer fully owns - credible strategic space
-  Part **genius, part desperation**: reintroducing Pakistan into global conversation
-  If overplayed, Pakistan risks alienating both benefactors - the worst outcome