

**STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP VERSUS
ALLIANCE: THE CHINA-PAKISTAN
RELATIONS VERSUS THE
US-JAPAN ALLIANCE**

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Executive Summary

1. Almost contiguous with each other, two sets of relations were strengthened in South Asia and Pacific East Asia within the last two weeks of April 2015.
2. In South Asia, China reached out to Pakistan with developmental funds of US\$46 billion, the single largest sum of funding for China's *youhao* friendship partners.
3. The projects that China was building and funding in Pakistan were mainly infrastructure. The guiding philosophy was also declared to be market-friendly and a targeted economic initiative.
4. The re-invigoration of the US-Japan alliance was more comprehensive and wider-ranging, involving issues of trade and commerce (Trans-Pacific Partnership), defence and security matters (collective self-defence) and geopolitical priorities (maritime disputes).
5. The Chinese-Pakistani cooperation can help to contain or mitigate religious extremism originating either from or passing through Pakistan.
6. The most noticeable change in the US-Japan alliance was the larger role played by Japan in defence and military matters. The alliance commits both to defend each other in times of crises and conflicts. It is an ironclad arrangement that serves the interests of both states and regional stability.
7. China's strategic partnership is aimed at promoting bilateral relations or solving common problems between or among states.
8. During his Washington visit, Japanese Prime Minister Abe, who was highly critical of Democratic Party of Japan's management of US-Japan alliance, sought to reverse any doubt that the alliance was the cornerstone of Japan's foreign, security and economic policies.

9. For China, there is no true alliance as the very term implies a working relationship between a senior and junior partner. To the Chinese, an alliance is often targeted at the third party and it has to have a common enemy.
10. With an eye for egalitarianism and non-alignment, China is sensitive to entering a relationship where it becomes a senior partner. Chinese-style strategic partnership focuses on inclusiveness, while an alliance is exclusive.
11. For the United States, it does not have an entrenched concept of non-alignment, having been the leader of the allies during World War II and the leader of the free world during the Cold War. It believes in the importance of alliances.
12. On the other hand, China's major power status in the future is likely to exhibit inclusiveness, development-focused orientation, friend- and not enemy-seeking, military-free content in partnership and emphasis on common-goods approach.