

# SCO

# Shanghai Cooperation

# Organization

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# Zbigniew Brzezinski





# Disintegration of RUSSIA



# Sino—Russian Cooperation after 1991

- After the **dissolution of the Soviet Union**, with Russia having been considerably weakened, both countries found common interests and a common free market orientation, and related to these, a common opponent: the **United States** as the sole superpower. **In 1991, the Sino-Russian Border Agreement was signed apportioning territory that became contested during the Sino-Soviet border conflict.**

# Russia's Desire to remain relevant in the region

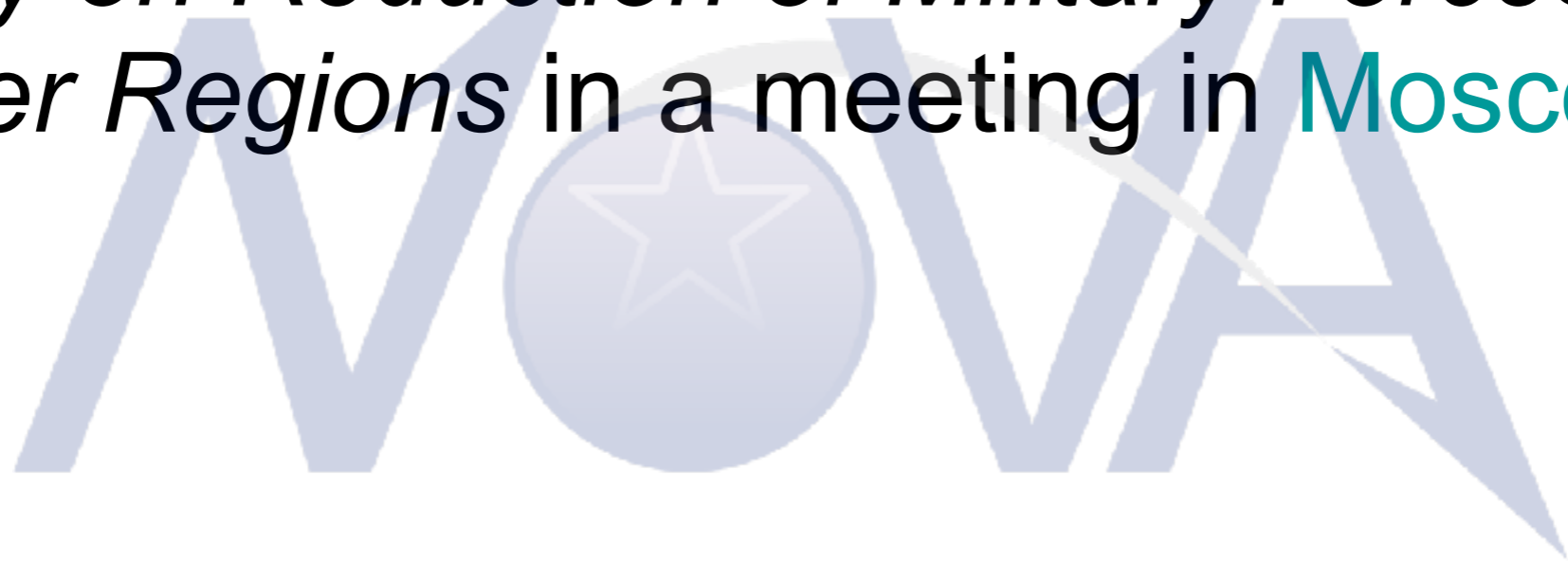
- Creation of CIS = 8 December 1991
- Creation of CSTO = 1992 : United Armed Forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States. Later on it became CSTO on 7 October, 2002.

# The Shanghai Five

The Shanghai Five grouping was originally created April 26, 1996 with the signing of the *Treaty on Deepening Military Trust in Border Regions* in *Shanghai* by the heads of states of Kazakhstan, the People's Republic of China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan.

# Further Agreements

April 24, 1997 the same countries signed the *Treaty on Reduction of Military Forces in Border Regions* in a meeting in **Moscow**.



# Creation of SCO

15 June 2001 Shanghai Cooperation Organization was established when Uzbekistan also joined Shanghai Five to make it Shanghai Cooperation Organization.





# The Purpose of SCO

In 2008, Iranian writer Hamid Golpira had this to say on the topic: "According to Zbigniew Brzezinski's theory, control of the Eurasian landmass is the key to global domination and control of Central Asia is the key to control of the Eurasian landmass....Russia and China have been paying attention to Brzezinski's theory, since they formed the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation in 2001, ostensibly to curb extremism in the region and enhance border security, but most probably with the real objective of counterbalancing the activities of the United States and the rest of the NATO alliance in Central Asia".

In 2008, the People's Daily wrote: "The Declaration points out that the SCO member countries have the ability and responsibility to safeguard the security of the Central Asian region, and calls on Western countries to leave Central Asia.

# Treaty of Good-Neighborliness and Friendly Cooperation

On July 16, 2001, President Jiang Zemin of the People's Republic of China and President Vladimir Putin of the Russian Federation signed the Treaty of Good-Neighbourliness and Friendly Cooperation Between the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation in Moscow. **With the hope of promoting and establishing a just and fair new world order based on universally recognized principles and norms of international laws,**

# SCO & RATS

At the June 16-17, 2004 SCO summit, held in **Tashkent, Uzbekistan**, the Regional Antiterrorism Structure (RATS) was established.

# Settling of Territorial Disputes

The Russian government agreed to transfer Yinlong Island as well as one half of Heixiazi Island to China in 2004, ending a long-standing border dispute between Russia and China. The event was meant to foster feelings of reconciliation and cooperation between the two countries by their leaders. The official transfer ceremony was held on 14 October 2008.

# Cooperation in Strategic Matters

- SCO, CSTO, CIS etc
- Policy of Non-interference in each other's internal affairs—like Chechnya, Tibet, Taiwan.  
Outmaneuvering US plans in the region:  
--petro-politics, sphere of influence, common trade, resistance to unilateralism
- China's competition against EU
- Russia's resistance to NATO expansion



# SCO's Potential

1. It is the world's largest regional organization in terms of geographic scope and population, covering approximately 24% of the area of world (65% of Eurasia)[3] and 42% of the world population.
2. As of 2024, its combined nominal GDP accounts for around 23%, while its GDP based on PPP comprises approximately 36% of the world's total. In 2023, the estimated trade volume among the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) member states was \$650 billion.
3. It has addressed regional human trafficking and weapons trafficking and created terrorist blacklists.
4. As of 2010, the organisation was opposing cyberwarfare, saying that the dissemination of information "harmful to the spiritual, moral and cultural spheres of other states" should be considered a "security threat". An accord adopted in 2009 defined "information war", in part, as an effort by a state to undermine another's "political, economic, and social systems".

5. As of 2009, the organisation's activities expanded to include increased military cooperation, intelligence sharing, and counterterrorism.
6. SCO members have in recent months moved to further boost economic and trade cooperation. As one of the latest results of SCO economic cooperation, the China Development Bank (CDB) said on Wednesday that it had completed 63 cooperation projects under the framework of the SCO Interbank Consortium, extending loans totaling \$14.6 billion to member banks and partner banks by August, 2021 covering production capacity cooperation, infrastructure, green and low-carbon development, and agriculture.
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9. Even Turkiye's president has stated that now Turkiye does not want to become a member of EU or NATO when SCO is available; it shows the potential of SCO
10. Their diplomatic investment in the SCO — and even India's willingness to play along — gradually advances China's effort to build alternatives to the Western order, shape the global narrative to its advantage and strengthen one of Beijing's platforms to promote its regional economic agenda.

In June 2017, at a summit in Kazakhstan, India and Pakistan officially joined SCO as full members.

# SCO and Pakistan

Pakistan successfully hosted the 23rd meeting of Council of Heads of Government (SCO-CHG) on October 15-16, 2024. It was attended by leaders from nine SCO member states, marking a historic gathering of world leaders in Pakistan. Earlier, in September 2024, Pakistan had hosted the meeting of SCO Trade Ministers, attended by ministers of trade and commerce of all SCO member states (both in-person and online). These successful meetings reaffirmed Pakistan's strong commitment to deepen cooperation among SCO members, guided by the "Shanghai Spirit."

Demonstrating a proactive stance within the SCO, Pakistan participated in key high-level meetings throughout the year, starting with the 24th Council of Heads of State (CHS) in Astana in July 2024 to hosting CHG in Islamabad in October 2024.

# SCO and Pakistan

The SCO summit successfully projected Pakistan as a relevant player on the regional and global stage and showcased the SCO's growing ability to facilitate regional dialogues, including between rivals like India and Pakistan and India and China. Perhaps the greatest achievement of this summit was the high-level participation by all member states, reflecting the utility of the SCO as a platform for multilateral dialogue.

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India's decision to participate in the Islamabad summit reflected New Delhi's perception of the SCO's relevance amid heightened geopolitical tensions in an increasingly multipolar world.



# Some Key Benefits to Pakistan

1. If used according to its charter, it can stop India's efforts to air separatism in Pakistan
3. SCO can become a successful platform to decrease terrorism within the member states. [RATS, Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure is meant for this.] According to its charter it can stop India from waging 5th Generation war against Pakistan
4. It can offer membership to Afghanistan and make Pakistan and Afghanistan come to terms with each other
5. It can create lots of opportunities for regional connectivity and trade among member states, observer states
6. Creation of SCO Bank can enable weak economies of the SCO member states to become strong, Pakistan will need this support instead of IMF

# Pakistan and SCO

7. SCO can become an effective organization to stop or decrease cross border terrorism between mutually conflicting countries. It can settle border disputes between countries of this region in a more effective way than UN which is heavily dominated by USA and European Countries.
9. SCO can be used to decrease crimes like human trafficking, drug trafficking and smuggling; Pakistan is in need of SCO's support to get rid of these crimes.
10. SCO can become a dependable platform to solve energy shortage of the member states because the CARs are energy rich states. Pakistan is an energy hungry country. It needs to benefit from SCO member states' energy resources.
11. In 2023–2024, Pakistan's trade deficit with SCO countries increased by 41% to \$11.703 billion. Pakistan's exports to SCO countries increased by 32.4% to \$3.076 billion in 2023–2024. However, imports increased by 39.14% to \$14.779 billion in 2023–2024.

# Pakistan and SCO

12. With China, Pakistan's overall trade volume stood at \$16 billion in 2023-24. The imports remained at \$13.5 billion and exports \$2.7 billion, leaving a huge trade deficit of \$10.8 billion. It is because ASEAN countries trade with China at 0% tariff, which make competition difficult for Pakistani exporters.
13. Pakistan's exports to Russia declined to \$78 million in 2023-24 from \$144.5 million in 2019-20. Studies have shown that there exists an export potential of \$2.8 billion to Russia.
14. Similarly, Pakistan's trade with CARs - Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan - remained limited to \$325 million in 2023-24. Imports were worth \$41 million and exports \$284 million, showing a trade surplus of \$243 million in favour of Pakistan.
15. As for Pakistan exports to all SCO members, the figure stood at \$3 billion in 2023-24 as against a potential of more than \$15 billion per annum.
16. Synergies between the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and SCO connectivity projects further position Pakistan as a key regional trade hub.

# Pakistan and SCO

13. SCO can become passage for Pakistan to become a member of BRICS.
14. For very different reasons and to different degrees, Islamabad and Moscow face diplomatic isolation from the West. Pakistan lost most of Washington's trust over the war in Afghanistan. Moscow now labours under Western sanctions imposed after its 2022 full-scale invasion of Ukraine. The two now appear to be exploring the potential for closer ties with each other. The SCO summit marked the first visit to Pakistan by a Russian prime minister since 2007. In a meeting with Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, both sides agreed to step-up bilateral cooperation in fields such as trade and energy, and vowed support for each other in multilateral forums, including the U.N. and BRICS.