PREFACE

In recent times the geopolitical space of Central Asian region is the centre stage of world politics for various reasons. Its strategic location is of decisive importance for world politics. The growth of Islamic extremism attracts the attention of different states suffering from separatist movements related to radical Islam and Islamic terrorism. The ongoing war in Afghanistan, since 2001, has decisive implications for stability and peace in the Eurasian region and the whole world. Further, the region possesses vast amount of oil and gas resources. And, we know all interested countries are making their best efforts to get the oil and gas from this region for enhancing their energy security needs. The landlocked nature of the region makes the stage for various ongoing politics.

China, situated in the eastern part of the Central Asian region is a geographic neighbour. It is an emerging power in the world stage and looking towards the Central Asian region to cash its geopolitical linkages with it to sustain as a global power. The geopolitical linkages between the Central Asian region and China can be traced in the fields of energy, security, and Islamic extremism and strategic importance. In this work an attempt has been made to analyse the previously mentioned issues in detail and to find out whether they really linked and need each other in geopolitical terms or not. Politics cannot escape from the geographic reality. By the advancement of technology, we can minimise the effect of geographical location to the power relations. But the location of any state inevitably effects its relation with others. The work is organised into six various chapters.

Chapter – 1 introduces the importance of the Central Asian region in geostrategic and geo economics terms. Also, the ongoing political event in the Central Asian geopolitics space is discussed for the better understanding of the research work. The changing relations between Europe and Asia in the post soviet era; the development of Asia-Europe meeting, CICA and SCO; the advancement of Western forces in Afghanistan since 2001 attack on Afghanistan; the colour revolutions in CIS and Chinese Western Development programme are the main subsections of the Chapter. Besides, the objectives, methodology and significance of the study are given.
Second chapter discusses the theoretical part of the study. The relationship between geography and politics is discussed for better understanding of the concepts of geopolitics. In this chapter, the relationship between geography is traced from the ancient Greek to modern period. The major works of Ratzel, A.T. Mahan, H.J. Mackinder, Nicholas J. Spykman, Rudolf Kjellen, Karl Haushofer, Saul B. Cohen are discussed in brief. The critical approaches to geopolitics of Karl Wittfogel and Isaiah Bowman are also mentioned. Then the relationship between geopolitics and international relations is analysed. Last part of this chapter consist of the review of literature under three broad themes: Geopolitics in Central Asia; Central Asia and Chinese geo-economic relationship; and Central Asian geopolitics and Chinese Security.

In the third chapter, the geopolitical linkage between Central Asian region and China is explained in the Mackinder's Heartland model and Spykman view's on the Geography and foreign policy. Thus, it provides an insight into the various factors which are responsible for gearing up the policies of different regional and global powers. It delineates the interests and advancement of different global and regional powers in Central Asia. The regional powers include Turkey, Iran, Pakistan and India, among the global powers- US, Russia and NATO's- role is discussed. In the last section China's geopolitical setting and its policy related to it is explained.

The fourth chapter analyses the various threat perceptions of Central Asian states and China in relation to the ongoing geopolitical game between different regional and global powers. The major security dilemmas for the Central Asian states are: Fear of regime changes in the in the context of Tulip Revolution (Kyrgyzstan), Andijan Crisis (Uzbekistan), and Political Changes in Kyrgyzstan (April 6, 2010); US military bases in the Central Asian region after 9/11; The Islamic Fundamentalism; fear of Russian Dependency and lastly the fear of Chinese Dominance. Whereas, Chinese security dilemmas are related to its separatist movement in Xinjiang, strategic encirclement by US and NATO, and the possible domino effect of colour revolutions in Central Asian geopolitical space. In the end Chinese policy to handle these threats are mentioned.

Fifth Chapter is divided in two sections. In the first section the energy related issues
are discussed and in the second section trade issues are discussed. The first section of the chapter gives detail account of energy and gas resources in Central Asian states and the existing pipelines to export it in various directions. The geopolitical struggle related to backing the pipelines through Russian, Iranian, Chinese and Western routes are analysed. This is followed by the analysis of Central Asian efforts to diversify the export route and market towards Iran and China. And from Chinese perspective supply of oil and gas from Central Asian side ensure energy security for China in long term. The Central Asian links with China in the field of energy has geopolitical advantage for both China and Central Asian states. In the second section trade issues are discussed. In this discussion Chinese efforts in the development of Xinjiang region is crucial for trade developments with the Central Asian region. Besides, the possible gain for Central Asian states and China by the revival of Silk Route is accounted.

Chapter - 6 is the last chapter contain the Conclusion. So, the chapter concludes with overall findings of the research work. And also suggestions have been made to make the Central Asian geopolitical space stable and peaceful.