

India-China Border Dispute: Analysis and Future Prospects

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Abstract

The India-China border dispute, a long-standing and intricate territorial conflict, has significant implications for regional stability and international geopolitics. Rooted in the colonial legacies of ambiguous borders, most notably the McMahon Line and Aksai Chin, the dispute has been exacerbated by competing nationalist narratives and strategic interests. This article examines the historical context of the dispute, focusing on key conflicts such as the 1962 Sino-Indian War and the more recent Galwan Valley clash of 2020. It also analyses the strategic dimensions of the rivalry, including China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and India's engagement with the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad). The article highlights the role of diplomatic negotiations, such as the Special Representatives' Dialogue, while acknowledging the persistent challenges posed by militarisation and nationalistic rhetoric. Furthermore, it evaluates the future prospects for conflict resolution, exploring potential pathways through diplomacy or continued strategic competition. Ultimately, this article argues that the India-China border dispute reflects a broader geopolitical contest in the Indo-Pacific, with far-reaching consequences for regional security and global power dynamics. The prospects for a peaceful resolution remain uncertain, with both nations prioritising their territorial integrity and strategic autonomy.

Key Words: *Line of Actual Control (LAC), Aksai Chin, Arunachal Pradesh, Sino-Indian relations, Territorial conflict, Regional security, McMahon Line.*

Introduction

The border dispute between India and China is one of the most enduring and multifaceted geopolitical conflicts in contemporary international relations. It revolves around the territorial contestation of vast areas, most notably Aksai Chin in the western

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