

## Book Review

# CHINA'S ASIAN DREAM

Tom Miller

304 pp, Zed Books London, Published in 2017, ISBN 978-1-78360-924-6

'China's Asian Dream', is a comprehensive work chronicling the dragon's foray into regional hegemony. The book is the need of the hour, at a juncture when all eyes are set on Asia, moreover China is a lesser known state. The work discloses China's venture into infrastructure diplomacy to pursue a dream to reassert its historical position as a dominant power in Asia.

The past events have shaped the current state of China. Both India and China are the longest surviving civilizations not only in Asia but also in the world. The colonization as well as Islamic aggression has not been able to wipe out both civilizations. This cultural chauvinism is reflected in its present quest for dominance in the region. Between 1839 and 1950 China faced European oppression much like other regions in Asia. Japanese war too resulted in loss of millions of lives and great humiliation. By 1949 China was battered and broken and Peoples Republic China was built on the statement popularized by the Communist Party of China- "Never forget National Humiliation". Author remarks that after many years of preparation, China is determined to take its place as a modern world power.

The book focuses on exploring China's foreign relations, in a bid to emerge as a stronger economic power in the region. Considering

China's long border sharing with as many as 14 countries, the book explains the challenges that China faces in pursuing its objectives. While exploring China's relations with multiple Asian countries, the book raises a pertinent question, - will China emerge as a geo political power? .The book is a rare account of multiple countries and many fold issues concerning regional (Asia) and global peace.

The book starts with a dramatic narration of turn of events in 2050 between Europe and China, predicting the ruins of Europe due to Islamic extremism and how China would have emerged as a global power. Towards the end of the book author seems to suggest this turn of events a distant reality. The book provides a brief account of historical incidents and suggests those incidents are the driving force behind resurgent China. The reference to historical instances range from thriving and long standing civilization of China over 2000 years, China's trade dominance through silk route, its vast kingdom and stable rule, humiliation of Opium war 1839 to the recent resurgent China under Communist Party. Post Opium war China was closed for trade, over 200 years. In the light of these events the Chinese leaders tried to draw attention of the citizens to the Chinese pride as a blessed region.