

# **Sino-Indian Power Struggle in the Indian Ocean and Its Impact on Sri Lanka**

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## **Abstract**

The Indian Ocean serves as a vital link connecting the Middle East, Africa, East Asia, Europe, and the Americas. The Indian Ocean has become crucial in the economic strategies of major developed nations like India, Japan, the USA, and China. Emerging countries, especially India, have also contributed to its growing importance. With the rise of China, driven by initiatives like the Belt and Road Initiative, concerns have grown among major powers about its rapid economic expansion. Consequently, India plays a pivotal role in the region to maintain its dominant position and counter Chinese influence. Both India and China leverage neighboring states to showcase their strength, making countries like Sri Lanka, situated in the heart of the Indian Ocean, key players in this power struggle. This study aims to explore the impacts, both positive and negative, of the Sino-India power struggle on Sri Lanka's political and economic landscape, with a focus on international developments since 2013. It employs a qualitative research approach, drawing from secondary sources such as reports, books, online journals, videos, and articles. Descriptive analysis is used to interpret the research findings. The study also examines the roles of regional organizations like IORA, BIMSTEC, IONS, Quad, BRI, and Sagarmala in contributing to this struggle. This research uncovers the multifaceted political and economic consequences of the Sino-Indian power struggle in Sri Lanka, within the specified timeframe. While recognizing that other regional countries are also affected by this contest, the analysis predominantly centers on Sri Lanka. Overall, it provides insights into the intricate dynamics and outcomes of the China-India power rivalry in the Indian Ocean region, with a specific emphasis on Sri Lanka, contributing to a deeper understanding of the evolving international system and its impact on regional actors.

**Keywords:** *BRI, Geographical Significant, Indian Ocean, Impacts*

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