

SINO- INDIA COMPLEX RELATIONS: IMPLICATIONS FOR INDIA

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ABSTRACT

There is a prevailing consensus that the center of global politics has shifted from Europe to the Asia-Pacific area in recent years. The move can be ascribed to various factors, such as the rise of China and India as influential actors, Japan's progressive assertion of its military capabilities, and a significant realignment of the United States' worldwide military posture in favor of the Asia-Pacific area. China and India are widely recognized as two of the largest developing countries worldwide, characterized by their quickly growing economy, substantial populations, and ancient and prosperous cultures. Nevertheless, it is crucial to recognize that they occupy a major position as developing powers in the Asian area. In the past twenty five years, China and India have made substantial progress in their ability to produce goods and services and in their overall national capabilities. Furthermore, both countries have developed strategic methods to reduce the effects of each other's influence within their own geographical regions. Consequently, the mutual trade between these groups has not succeeded in promoting the expected increased collaboration and mitigating the security risk that arises from power politics. However, the relationship between China and India has had a varying path since then, and achieving a complete resolution of bilateral disagreements and fostering mutual confidence still necessitates substantial advancement.

Keywords: Peace, New Delhi, Beijing, Pacific Ocean, Geopolitical Dynamics

Introduction

China and India are widely recognized as two of the largest developing countries worldwide, characterized by their quickly growing economy, substantial populations, and ancient and prosperous cultures. Nevertheless, it is crucial to recognize that they occupy a major position as developing powers in the Asian area. In the past twenty five years, China and India have made substantial progress in their ability to produce goods and services and in their overall national capabilities. These advancements have attracted significant focus and are frequently mentioned as the "ascendancy of China" and the "emergence of India" in scholarly works (Cohen, 2001; Ma, 2002). To fully comprehend China's rise, it is essential to have a comprehensive perspective that goes beyond historical circumstances and includes both the present and future aspects. This involves identifying the historical epochs in which the Chinese population experienced notable progress in terms of socio-economic well-being and national strengthening under successive generations of leaders. Furthermore, it entails recognizing the present and future periods marked by a "peaceful rise" headed by a new cohort of leaders, taking place within the context of globalization. Fifty years ago, the cities of Beijing and New Delhi jointly established the 'Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence' (known as Panchsheel in India) as a set of guidelines to manage the diplomatic relations between these two newly independent countries. However, the relationship between China and India has had a varying path since then, and achieving a complete resolution of bilateral disagreements and fostering mutual confidence still necessitates substantial advancement. Therefore, it is crucial to highlight and enforce the ideals of Panchsheel, especially considering the simultaneous rise of China and India in the Asian region.

Deng and succeeding Chinese leaders have continuously emphasized the crucial importance of a stable and peaceful regional and international environment in order to achieve

rapid economic growth. During the early 1980s, China's foreign policy experienced a substantial shift, marked by a change from emphasizing alliance, revolution, and conflict to prioritizing independence, peaceful ties, and collaboration. The country's pursuit of economic reform and its desire to interact with the global community were the main driving forces behind this development. Furthermore, China's comprehensive strategic strategy seeks to establish a balance between domestic and international factors, with a primary focus on economic growth rather than the pursuit of influence. The aforementioned argument demonstrates a significant deviation from the ideological framework that was dominant during the Mao era, as well as a departure from classic views in the field of international relations. The theory of hegemonic stability argues that a single dominant power is essential for sustaining an open global economy. The establishment of regional or international order depends on the participation of a dominating state or the emergence of a competition among dominant powers. Prior to the 1990s, China was not commonly recognized as a prominent global power, as indicated by the evaluations of the majority of scholars specializing in international affairs. The impressive course of China's progress during the previous four decades serves as a predictor for future possibilities. President Xi Jinping has outlined a strategic framework for the future of China called the "two-stage development plan." From 2020 to 2035, the primary goal is to enhance the foundational elements of China's modern economy. In the next period, from 2035 to 2050, China's objective is to position itself as a country with substantial global influence and economic power (Fieteng, 2017).

Experts in the academic subject of economic interdependence argue that participating in economic trade might reduce long-lasting tensions and rivalry between countries, therefore promoting increased cooperation. However, the theory presented above lacks evidence when

applied to the context of Indo-China relations. The historical relationship between China and India has been marked by an intricate interplay of fondness and hostility. Based on scholarly analysis and the opinions of prominent economists, it is expected that their relationship will be marked by a basis of cooperation in the future. However, in reality, the implementation of such collaboration has proven unsuccessful. Nevertheless, despite the friendly conversation, both countries saw each other as rivals, if not enemies. The main aim of this study is to examine the accuracy of the economic interdependence thesis. This study utilizes sources from India, China, and international economic institutions to support the increasing bilateral economic cooperation.

The objective is to examine if the increase in economic cooperation, particularly through bilateral trade, has reduced the impact of ongoing border disputes and the long-lasting rivalry that usually accompanies such conflicts. After analyzing the unresolved border issues, increased military presence from both countries, and misunderstandings about their actions, it can be argued that Sino-India relations are characterized by long-standing competition. This antagonism endures, notwithstanding the increasing economic collaboration between the two nations. To accomplish this goal, the researcher will analyze the substantial corpus of literature generated by research institutions and scholars in Western, Indian, and Chinese settings. Furthermore, the aim of this study is to analyze the viewpoint of leadership and the strategic community in India and China. Furthermore, both countries have developed strategic methods to reduce the effects of each other's influence within their own geographical regions. Consequently, the mutual trade between these groups has not succeeded in promoting the expected increased collaboration and mitigating the security risk that arises from power politics. Based on the factors indicated before, this analysis suggests that the future collaboration between Indo-China is expected to be characterized by a continuous rivalry. This rivalry will be influenced by a security dilemma that

hampers the potential benefits of economic cooperation. Put simply, it is likely that their relationship will be marked by conflict stemming from power dynamics.

This study aims to examine the importance and applicability of the concept of China's peaceful rise and its consequences for India. Although the notion of peaceful ascent has lost popularity and been replaced by the term "peaceful development," its core concepts are still highly relevant. The concept of peaceful rising is a strategy methodology aimed at properly managing the consequences of China's emergence as a significant global power. The statement highlights China's dedication to maintaining peaceful relationships and promoting inclusive economic development, while also indicating a significant shift in its foreign policy approach. Bhattacharya (2005) defines the concept of peaceful rising as a strategy to establish a peaceful global system and cultivate a harmonious association between India and China.

Research Methodology

The research will be predominately qualitative in nature; the historical and analytical model will be adopted to analyze the data. The research design of this study will be descriptive. This research will be qualitative in nature.

Theoretical Framework

In his 1998 essay for the World Politics Review, Gideon Rose coined the phrase "neoclassical realism," which he argued included both internal and external factors, while also updating and organizing certain principles from classical realist philosophy. Proponents argue that a country's standing in the global system, particularly its material power capabilities, is the main factors that determine the extent and goals of its foreign policy. They possess a realistic

perspective due to this fact. Neoclassical realism has established a distinct position by providing a foreign policy analysis paradigm that is based on theory and supported by extensive empirical evidence. Over time, it has expanded into a theory including other categories, such as foreign policy and international politics.

Geopolitical dynamics

There is a prevailing consensus that the center of global politics has shifted from Europe to the Asia-Pacific area in recent years. The move can be ascribed to various factors, such as the rise of China and India as influential actors, Japan's progressive assertion of its military capabilities, and a significant realignment of the United States' worldwide military posture in favor of the Asia-Pacific area. The prevailing discussion centers on the possibility of heightened tensions and conflicts in the Asia-Pacific area, as many states compete for supremacy. On the other hand, it is worth considering that the combined effects of economic globalization and multilateralism could potentially help create peace and stability in the region. Some individuals have directly inquired about the possible similarities between Asia's future and Europe's past. Presently, it is difficult to give a conclusive answer to this issue because of the continuous emergence of influential nations in the Asia-Pacific area, such as China, India, and Japan. These nations are currently grappling with a myriad of intricate issues that are often encountered by emerging countries in the global system. Nevertheless, it is clear that influential global powers are presently reevaluating their geopolitical decisions regarding the Pacific region (Pant, 2007).

The objective of this study is to examine the development of India's foreign policy in the Pacific region throughout recent years. This analysis will primarily examine the changing

distribution of power in the Asia-Pacific region. This analysis will take place within the framework of the ongoing theoretical discussion surrounding this topic. Following that, a thorough assessment would be carried out to determine the precise role that India sees for itself in this particular region. Subsequently, an assessment will be carried out on India's diplomatic relations with the main international actors, specifically China and the United States. To summarize, this analysis will now provide insights into the future direction of Indian foreign policy in the region.

The aim of this study is to perform a thorough assessment of India's viewpoints and responses to the rise of China. There are three clear viewpoints and corresponding strategies regarding China: one that sees China as a harmless force and promotes a strategy of appeasement another that sees China as a menacing force and recommends a policy of containment and encirclement, and a third viewpoint that sees China as a rival force and advocates for a strategy of balanced engagement. The review focuses on the dominant scholarly viewpoint that regards China as a rival global power and promotes a cautious approach in dealing with it. This viewpoint incorporates all facets of China's rise, with a specific focus on its economic growth and military advancement.

Publicly, the leaders of India openly convey favorable attitudes towards China. However, many persons responsible for shaping India's foreign policy express major concerns in private. Critics voice discontent with the uneven nature of Chinese foreign policy, which is marked by its tendency to oscillate between periods of assertiveness and shyness. The viewpoints expressed by influential members of the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party, which advocates for Hindu nationalism, bear a significant resemblance to those of the ruling Congress Party's leadership.

Indians have concerns about China's efforts to develop friendly relationships with neighboring countries of India, such as Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. Some Indian strategists are worried about the surrounding of India by countries that have formed alliances with China. China has a positive diplomatic relationship with the Maoist party in Nepal, which has considerable influence as the dominant political group in the country known for its political instability. China wields substantial influence in Burma, where it is presently involved in constructing pipelines to facilitate the movement of oil and gas resources from the Bay of Bengal to the province of Yunnan. China has made significant investments in Sri Lanka, including the construction and improvement of ports, highways, power plants, and airports. China provided Sri Lanka with a significant amount of \$1.2 billion in assistance, making it the main contributor in the previous financial year. Furthermore, it functions as the main supplier of arms across the country. China and Pakistan have a longstanding diplomatic alliance marked by a shared commitment to refrain from criticizing one other. Grant (2010) states that the Indian population holds the idea that Beijing still offers direct assistance to Islamabad over its nuclear weapons program.

Superpower at door step

The Indo-Pacific region is presently seeing substantial geostrategic reconfigurations. China's ascent is posing a challenge to the established legal, economic, and diplomatic framework, consequently questioning the norms that have prevailed since the end of World War II. These alterations take place during a time marked by growing uncertainty regarding the United States' commitment to its regional allies and a free global trading system. The growing partnership between India and Japan has emerged as a feasible and pragmatic option in the absence of American leadership. These two democratic superpowers have the requisite strategic

leverage, economic prowess, and common values and interests to counteract the rise of China. They may accomplish this by either reinvigorating American involvement in embracing a more assertive and prominent leadership role, or by autonomously constructing a strong foundation for enduring liberalization and prosperity in the area. This gives rise to apprehensions over the capricious dedication and preferences of the United States.

This article advocates for a renewed effort by Japan and India to take on leadership roles in the Indo-Pacific region. Although China has showcased its economic prowess in the Asian area, it has faced difficulties in maintaining the impressive growth it has experienced in recent years. This circumstance presents a political challenge for Xi Jinping. Regarding domestic affairs, the person in question has enforced tight policies concerning Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Tibet, as well as placing limitations on religious minority communities and political dissidents. He has utilized the tactic of promoting nationalism to maintain the backing of his domestic audience. President Xi has exhibited a same degree of assertiveness in his dealings with neighboring nations. In light of the maritime dispute between China and Japan over the disputed Senkaku-Diaoyu islands, China has implemented various measures in response. These measures involve the deployment of naval and coast guard vessels to undertake patrols around these islands, as well as their positioning within Japanese territorial waters. China has independently established a comprehensive "air defense identification zone" over the East China Sea, which requires any aircraft to notify and adhere to Chinese authorities. Neglecting to comply may lead to a military response (Crowley, Majumdar, & McDonough, 2017).

Economic landscape

The growing significance of emerging economies has initiated debates on India's capacity to rival China, giving rise to what is commonly known as the "dragon-elephant competition."

These concerns have garnered considerable attention in the last decade. When analyzing the viewpoint of prosperous economic development and drawing comparisons, it is clear that both nations have their own experiences that can serve as benchmarks, as well as places for potential enhancement. The competition between China and India can be described as a partnership where they mutually complement and cooperate with each other, rather than a situation where one's gain is the other's loss. The potential influence of China and India on the changing economic environment of the 21st century is viewed optimistically. The peaceful progress of China and India is of great significance as pivotal occurrences in the 21st century for the BRICS nations, which include Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. It is crucial for the two nations to cultivate cooperation instead of participating in confrontation. If India diverges from closely imitating the United States' strategy of restraining China's progress, it may reallocate its military expenditure towards constructing infrastructure as a method to alleviate domestic poverty. India's adoption of this strategy change has the potential to enhance the benefits it receives from its collaboration with China.

Following the formation of the People's Republic of China (PRC), the economic situations of China and India were similar. In 1950, India's gross national product (GNP) exceeded China's by a substantial margin of 49.5%. Moreover, India's per capita GNP was 2.3 times higher than that of China. China's per capita gross domestic product (GDP) was significantly lower than India's, amounting to only 43.5%. Since its inception, especially in the late 1970s, the People's Republic of China (PRC) has made remarkable progress and achieved notable successes in its economy, sometimes referred to as the "Chinese miracle." This progress can be credited to the implementation of the policies of liberalization and reform. In a similar vein, India has experienced different rates of economic progress, encompassing both quick and sluggish growth, as a result of a sequence of economic reform measures implemented since 1991. The rise of developing economies and the BrIcS nations has generated worldwide apprehension regarding the competition between India and China, often referred to as the dragon-elephant rivalry, in the past decade (Lin & Zhou, 2011).

India saw a phase of economic underperformance from the 1950s to the 1970s, leading to a condition of Hindu equilibrium marked by slow economic growth rates ranging from 3% to 3.5%. In 1950, India's per capita income exceeded China's by about 40%. Nevertheless, by 1978, the two countries had almost reached equality in terms of per capita GDP. In the 1980s, India experienced a significant improvement in its economy, which then gained speed and underwent accelerated growth in the 1990s. In 1999, China had a substantial surge in per capita income, surpassing India's level by a factor of two. India experienced a significant surge in its economic growth, with a growth rate of 6% from 1980 to 2002, which further rose to 7.5% from 2002 to 2010. China experienced an average yearly GDP growth rate of 10% from 1978 to 2010, when compared to other countries. India has witnessed a significant surge in its economic growth over the last two years, establishing itself as one of the world's most rapidly expanding countries, on par with China. According to Lal (2008), this pattern indicates a possible future surpassing of China's economic dominance.

Table 6.1 comparison of Economic Growth rate between India, china and America (2006–2013)

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Average Growth Rate (2006-13)
Total	5.2	5.3	2.8	-0.6	5.0	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5
USA	2.7	2.0	0.0	-2.6	2.8	1.8	1.8	2.2	1.4
china	12.7	14.2	9.6	9.2	10.3	9.2	8.2	8.8	10.2
India	9.7	9.9	6.4	5.7	8.7	7.4	7.0	7.3	7.8

Sources: data from International monetary fund (Imf) (<http://www.imf.org/external/data.htm>), National data of National Bureau of Statistics of china (<http://data.stats.gov.cn/index>) and author's calculation.

Regional influence

India's political leaders have consistently demonstrated a strong desire to reach global recognition and be acknowledged as a great power. Pant (2010: 134) argues that there is a paradox in India's political elites actively want worldwide recognition for their nation as a major power, with the aim of gaining the associated prestige and authority. Nevertheless, they still have reservations when it comes to acquiring and employing power in the context of foreign affairs. Since the late 1990s, consecutive Indian administrations have developed a strategic plan for India's standing in the international stage, aiming for increased influence. India's position as a regional force is often analyzed in strategic discussions, focusing on its dominance in South Asia, its influence in the Indo-Pacific area, and its status as a major Asian power comparable to China, with the ability to shape international political results. However, Pant clarifies that this identification is both uncertain and contradictory. Unlike China, India demonstrates a degree of unease in adopting the notion of exercising global influence. India's indecisiveness regarding power and its application has resulted in a situation where, despite the gradual growth of its economic and military capacities, it has failed to establish a corresponding strategic plan and the required institutions to efficiently mobilize and utilize its resources. India's lack of aptitude for exerting power is especially noticeable in the military sphere. India has not been successful in efficiently building, deploying, and utilizing its military forces to achieve its national goals, unlike other significant global powers in history and currently (Pant 2010: 133-136).

This academic essay explores the presence of simultaneous regionalism in the South and Southeast Asian regions. The study utilizes Thomas Pedersen's 'ideational-institutionalist realism' approach as its theoretical framework. Our theory suggests that the expansion of regional organizations in the two sub-regions under consideration has been greatly impacted by

hegemonic and counter-hegemonic dynamics involving China and India, the dominant countries in Asia. It is suggested that the foreign policy elites in the regions have a significant presence of skeptical worldviews that prioritize vulnerability, victimhood, and the necessity of national survival. The establishment of regional institutions is shaped by the ideas of realism. This paper explores the motivations and techniques utilized by China and India as they strive to construct "cooperative hegemonies" by creating regional institutions. These institutions function as means of integrating adjacent states into their own areas of control, while also discouraging rival powers. Furthermore, this study examines the factors that contribute to the involvement of smaller states in these regional forums.

The simultaneous rise of China and currently India is a crucial factor in understanding the dynamics of the twenty-first century. As numerous countries rise to become influential global powers, a phrase that can be interpreted differently by different people, they are progressively coming into contact with each other across the Asian continent and its surrounding maritime areas. The conventional geopolitical frameworks put out by Mackinder, Spykman, and Mahan focus on the geographical dynamics of Central Asia, South Asia, Pacific Asia, and the Indian Ocean. These frameworks combine physical spatial arrangements with subjective spatial viewpoints. These neighboring governments, which have significant influence, seek to maintain their upward progress and assert dominance over one other when necessary by employing the tactic of encircling each other and forming alliances or utilizing proxy troops. The expression of this specific "Great Game" is evident in the fields of military-security, diplomatic, and economic spheres. Globalization has not replaced the importance of regionalism, and the rise of geoeconomics has not made geopolitics irrelevant. The acquisition of energy resources is of utmost importance in their endeavor to attain Great Power status fueled by economic expansion.

Observable evidence of collaboration is there, which is consistent with the concepts of international relations liberalism-functionalism. However, the actions of these actors are primarily shaped by geopolitical international relations realism and their understanding of the security dilemma (Scott, 2008).

Balance of power

The main objective of this article is to have a thorough comprehension of how the Indian strategic community views and depicts the threat posed by China. The primary aim of this study is to examine how the Indian strategic community constructs or ascribes the identity of China, specifically in relation to the military actions carried out by the Chinese government. The current thesis does not analyze the underlying motivations, drivers, and ambitions behind the discursive constructs of the Indian 2 strategic community, as this is not within the scope of its objectives. It is crucial to fully understand the internal motivations, personal agendas, and rationales that drive individuals' behavior and this should not be undervalued. The topic matter mentioned in this thesis is beyond its intended scope and may be more suitably explored in future research attempts. This thesis enhances our understanding of the strategic relationship between China and India by analyzing the discursive interpretations that underlie the perception of threats. It notably focuses on the Indian perspective on the Chinese threat. The analysis focuses on the interpretations that occurred before India formulated its responses or policies towards China, as indicated by Weldes (1996:276).

The study is based on the idea that the concepts of threat and security are socially constructed. Language has a major impact on constructing society, while narratives are crucial in shaping one's identity and in depicting threats and ideas of security. This study employs critical

discourse analysis (CDA) to investigate the Indian discourse surrounding three case studies related to Chinese actions. In addition, the research includes interviews done with members of the Indian strategic community. Moreover, this analysis provides two substantial and pivotal contributions to our understanding of Indian security strategy and its foreign policy actions. This paper provides a thorough examination of how the strategic elite in India perceives and presents China's actions that jeopardize its security interests, including its sovereignty and existence. This thesis also investigates non-security elements that influence the interpretations made by the Indian strategic community. These elements include self-perception, historical and colonial experiences, normative predispositions, national memory, and India's unique understanding of external threats. To comprehensively examine India's interpretation of Chinese military activities and its responses in foreign policy, it is widely agreed that one should primarily focus on India's security imperatives. China's military operations are expected to be perceived as possible threats to India's national security, prompting a swift ascription of aggressive and hostile intentions to China. However, the discussions and explanations provided by Indian strategic elites generally revolve around security concerns. Nonetheless, these discussions also reveal the impact of non-security variables, such as ideational influences (George, 2019).

The current academic literature on hedging as a secondary state strategy primarily relies on empirical evidence obtained from the United States-China rivalry in East and Southeast Asia. This literature focuses on situations in which a powerful entity provides economic opportunities while also presenting security threats. Secondary states in the South Asian region have employed hedging strategies to address the strategic rivalry between India and China, even in the absence of a direct security risk. We present a theoretical framework aimed at reconciling these two findings. Hedging involves a delicate balance between the concrete benefits and the possible

constraints on autonomy that result from interacting with a dominant force in a competitive environment. States tend to adopt hedging tactics when they encounter a situation where there is a simultaneous rise in both advantages and costs. The feasibility of this concept is assessed within the specific circumstances of the Maldives and Sri Lanka. The concept of the autonomy trade-off is relevant in both non-threatening and threatening settings. Lim and Mukharji (2019) describe how this approach offers a theoretical framework that may be used to a wider range of real-world situations.

The discussion on the competition between China and India in the Indian Ocean region has primarily focused on these two prominent nations. Nevertheless, it is crucial to give more attention to the participation of the island administrations. This article utilizes a structure-agency framework to assess the capacity for action of four island governments in the Indian Ocean, specifically Sri Lanka, Maldives, Mauritius, and Seychelles, within the backdrop of the rivalry between China and India. By analyzing the interactions between India, China, and the island nations, we may explore the factors that either support or impede the self-governance of these islands. These states have substantial economic ties with both India and China, while maintaining a moderate level of dependence on neither country. India holds a significant position in the field of security, while China has also been actively strengthening its security alliances. The existence of political consensus inside a nation that is comprised of islands can greatly enhance its influence over foreign powers, as evidenced by the examples of Mauritius and Seychelles. Conversely, Sri Lanka and the Maldives encounter more contentious political situations, resulting in increased rivalry between China and India (McDougall & Taneja, 2020). The geopolitical ascendance of India and China, two adjacent nations in Asia, has experienced a substantial metamorphosis.

The profound impact of global politics on Asia has effectively brought about the realization of the concept known as the "Asian Century." Nevertheless, the unified viewpoint of Asian nations seems to be deteriorating due to the increasing tensions between China and India. Although both countries participate in many socio-economic activities, they yet exhibit significant differences. Regarding various global and local issues. The age marked by a dearth of trust and fierce competitiveness began after the event mentioned earlier. The inception of the Tibetan revolution. For thousands of years, India and China have maintained a friendly and harmonious relationship.

The formation and upkeep of collaborative relationships. The religious and economic ties between India and China grew in scope. In the First Century AD, there was a significant increase in trade and pilgrimages across the ancient world. The Silk Road corridor denotes the ancient commercial pathway that linked East Asia and Europe, enabling the interchange of commodities, concepts, and civilizations between these territories. A multitude of Buddhist monks undertook voyages to China with the aim of propagating the doctrines and tenets of Buddhism. Within the framework of Buddhism, it is worth mentioning that a significant number of Chinese pilgrims undertook voyages to India with the explicit intention of immersing themselves in the study and investigation of Buddhist doctrines. I am presently registered as a student at Nalanda University. The historical links remained persistent and strong throughout the medieval and modern ages. The periods being examined are the pre-colonial and colonial epochs. Following the attainment of independence, the enduring diplomatic ties between India and [country/region] underwent significant advancement. The country unequivocally stated its support for the Chinese freedom struggle and provided diplomatic aid. The process of restructuring in China. However, this historical connection lasted only until the start of The Tibetan insurrection of 1959, which

signaled the beginning of a collapse in the Tibetan region. This decrease worsened with the advent of the Tibetan crisis (Batadia & Samraj, 2015).

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