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**India — Pakistan: the status of relations in the region.**

The article is devoted to the analysis of the reasons for New Delhi's opposition to the construction of a transport corridor, which, in her opinion, strengthens the economic position in the region of its main rival China. The mechanism of pressure exerted on Islamabad, as an ally of Beijing, by the United States, which in turn "uses" India and Afghanistan in economic and strategic competition for influence in Western and South Asia, as well as in the Asia-Pacific region, is considered.

The US withdrawal from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action with Iran in May 2018 meant the phased introduction of sanctions against Tehran in August and November 2018. Fearing the blocking of financing and construction of port facilities by India, the United States excluded the Iranian port of Chabahar from the sanctions list in November 2018. Thus, New Delhi will continue to develop the port infrastructure as part of a new transport corridor designed to boost the economy of Afghanistan. At the same time, Washington agreed to import Iranian oil products to Kabul.

Back in 2015, New Delhi increased pressure on Baloch separatists in Pakistani Balochistan, pushing them to boycott the KPEC project. The moral support announced by Prime Minister N. Modi in August 2016 intensified separatist sentiments and added tension to relations between the provincial authorities of Balochistan and the federal Government. All subsequent years, the military and civilian authorities have been conducting clarification campaigns, convincing the local population that they are the first beneficiary of the CPEC. Having built the western route of the KPEC through the lands of Balochistan.

The implementation of the CPEC has led to increased rivalry in the region. The project casts doubt on trade and economic agreements and infrastructure projects of the SAARC member countries. It is the meridian transport corridors that open the shortest way to Afghanistan and Iran through the territory of Pakistan.