

ANALYSIS OF MEDIA NARRATIVES ON THE SINO-INDIA CONFLICT IN GLOBAL TIMES

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This exploratory study attempts to critically analyse and contextualise the narratives of Sino-India hostilities in Chinese English daily Global Times, associated with ruling Chinese Communist Party (CCP), in the backdrop of the military clashes at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Union Territory of Ladakh in 2020. It identifies four patterns in the Chinese narrative about the border confrontations in the coverage of Global Times. First, it stakes a claim on the territories controlled by India in the Western and Eastern sector boundaries. Secondly, it contends that any attempts to stop Chinese nibbling at the LAC will lead to military confrontation. Thirdly, it argues that China is determined to take control of the territory it lays claim on, and geopolitical concerns are not shaping its policies towards India. Fourth, it also argues that Beijing can continue to access India's vast market despite border clashes as Indian consumers benefit from cheap imports from China.

Keywords: Media analysis, Sino-India clashes, Chinese Media, Line of Actual Control, territorial conflict, Global Times

Background

India and China share a long border across the western, middle and eastern sectors. The boundary at the western sector is controversial due to two differing perceptions. India considers Johnson Line as a legitimate boundary, whereas China considers McDonald Line. As per the former, Aksai Chin falls under Union Territory of Ladakh, and as per the

war had ended.²

The 1962 experience had a devastating effect and dented Nehru's stature as a statesman along with his cherished idealism. China seized the Aksai Chin and Arunachal Pradesh in the 1962 war. However, the Chinese handed Arunachal Pradesh back and retreated behind the McMahon Line, which they continued to describe as illegal³ till this day.