

Japan's Balancing Strategy Against China in the Indo-Pacific Region

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I. The Term “Indo-Pacific”

1. Origin

- Was coined by Gurpreet S. Khurana in 2007
- In 2007, “Confluence of the Two Seas” Speech by Shinzo Abe, at the Parliament of the Republic of India
- According to John Hemmings (The Henry Jackson Society)
 - ① In 2011, the US officially began using the term
 - ② In 2013, Australia incorporated the concept into its Defence White Paper
 - ③ After some hesitation, India, Indonesia, and even Taiwan, have also begun using the term

2. Implications

- The concept of the “Indo-Pacific” has a number of drivers: the rise of China and India, and a growing energy trade, maritime shipping, population shifts, military might, seapower, etc.
- “The Indo-Pacific, including the entire Indian Ocean, the Western Pacific and the nations that surround them, will **be the most consequential part of the globe in the 21st century.**” (Rex Tillerson Address at CSIS, October 2017)
- Is the concept a US-led attempt **to contain China?**

II. China's Expansionism

1. Maritime Expansion by a Traditional Continental State

- Classical Geopolitics
- Historical Background

2. The Main Sources of Chinese Strategic Culture

- Realism
- Deception
- Sinocentrism

3. Beijing's Strategy for its Expansion

- Mahanism, Heartland Theory, Belt and Road Initiative, Three Warfares, Salami Slicing Strategy, Cabbage Strategy, Sharp Power, Debt Diplomacy, etc.

4. The Possibility of and factors Relating to China's Imperial Overstretch

- Expansionism
- Global Investment
- Opaque Economy
- The US-China Trade War
- Cost-imposing Strategy
- Other Domestic Problems

III. Japan's Indo Pacific Strategy

1. Balancing Strategy Against China

- Classical Geopolitical Rivalry
 - Continental Power vs. Maritime Power
 - Japan as an Offshore Island State
- Basic Strategic Posture
 - Bandwagoning?
 - Balancing?
- External and Internal Balancing
 - External Balancing with Alliances and Coalitions
 - Internal Balancing by Enhancing its Own National Power

2. External Balancing: Maritime-coalition Building

- Maritime-oriented Coalition
 - No single power can control the World Ocean
- Naval Democratic Powers
 - The Quad
 - The UK
 - France
- Maritime States Located Near Chokepoints
 - Taiwan
 - ASEAN Countries
 - India
- Continental Balancers
 - India
 - Russia
- India is a key member but...

3. External Balancing: the Member Maritime States of the Coalition

- The US
 - as the Leader of the Maritime Coalition
 - US Grand Strategy: Offshore Balancing?
 - Japan-US Alliance as a Unified Offshore Balancer
- The Quad
 - Asia's Democratic Security Diamond as coined by Shinzo Abe in 2012
 - Shared Democratic Values and Principles
- The UK
 - "Global Britain"
 - TPP
 - Five Power Defence Arrangements
 - To Deploy the New Aircraft Carrier
- France
 - Overseas Territories including its EEZ in the Indo-Pacific
 - Strategic Paris-Delhi-Canberra Axis
 - Arms Sales
- Taiwan
 - Paramount Geostrategic Importance to Japan
 - To Build an Indigenous Submarine
 - Japanese Taiwan Relations Act?

4. Internal Balancing: The Biggest Problem

- “Internal balancing can be military plans and strategies to enhance security. If states cannot protect themselves after attempting to do so, they will engage in external balancing with alliances. This is rare and risky, because states can never trust each other. States must first internal balance, and then external balance if need be” (Joseph M. Parent and Sebastian Rosato in “Balancing in Neorealism”)

5. Limiting Factors for Japan's Internal Balancing

- Deflation
- Defense Budget
- Revision of the Japanese Constitution
- Educational and Academic Circles
- Media
- Anti-espionage Law