

ASEAN

Security community, ASEAN and its member states: mutually reinforcing or a relationship of convenience?/ Mohd Ikbal Mohd Huda

EbscoHost (Online Access)

This article discusses the role ASEAN and its member states play in maintaining, utilizing and managing security in the region especially in the context of security community building despite having limitations that may hinder them in achieving all of this.

ASIA PACIFIC

Armed and dangerous: maritime patrol aircraft in the Asia-Pacific/ Guy Martin

Defence Review Asia: February 2020, Vol. 14, No. 1, pp.30-33 (146)

Across the Asia-Pacific, there are a growing number of maritime patrol aircraft (MPA) are entering at the same time in order to maintain control and to keep up with regional competitors especially those with modernised fleets.

Developmental peace in East Asia and its implications for the Indo-Pacific/ Ling Wei

International Affairs: January 2020, Vol.96, No.1, pp.189-209 (32)

This article examines the problem of the Indo-Pacific construct. Through reflection on the East Asian experience, it proposes an analytical framework of developmental peace as a constellation of international practices, which means that the more economic development is prioritized, the more likely it is that a sustainable peace will be achieved.

CHINA

Next! after the South China Sea - the Indian Ocean/ Mark Farrer

Defence Review Asia: February 2020, Vol. 14, No. 1, pp.18-19 (146)

The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) is currently solidifying their control over the South China Sea and is not planning on stopping there. The CCP's next maritime target is to dominate the Indian Ocean.

China's naval buildup of alarming proportions/ Kym Bergmann

Asia-Pacific Defence Reporter : March 2020, Vol.46, No.2, pp.30-34 (9)

The interview between APDR with two Western experts from Australia discusses the move made by China for their navies that caused worries for other states.

The recalibration of Chinese assertiveness: China's responses to the Indo-Pacific challenge/ Feng Liu

International Affairs: January 2020, Vol.96, No.1, pp.9-27 (32)

The article highlights the changing geopolitical landscape in Asia as a result of the tensions between China and the United States that have constantly attempting to change the regional order both in the economic and security realms to their own favour.

CHINA

Non-traditional security cooperation between China and South-east Asia: implications for Indo-Pacific geopolitics/ Xue Gong

International Affairs: January 2020, Vol.96, No.1, pp.29-48 (32)

The article highlights the response from China as a result of the relationship between the United States and the regions of Southeast Asia that actively promoted their strategy of 'free and open Indo Pacific' (FOIP). The article also addresses the question; what is the impact of China's non traditional security cooperation with Southeast Asia on Beijing's geopolitical rivalry with other major powers in the Indo-Pacific region?

Consigned to hedge: South-East Asia and America's 'free and open Indo-Pacific' strategy/ See Seng Tan

International Affairs: January 2020, Vol.96, No.1, pp.131-148 (32)

This article assesses how South-East Asian countries and ASEAN have responded to the 'free and open Indo-Pacific' (FOIP) strategies promoted by the United States and the other countries in the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (the 'Quad': US, Japan, Australia and India).

The Belt and Road Initiative: geo-economics and Indo-Pacific security competition/ MingJiang Li

International Affairs: January 2020, Vol.96, No.1, pp.169-187 (32)

The BRI is one of China's major geo-economic strategy that focuses on infrastructure and industrial sectors across Eurasia and Indo Pacific. Hence this article attempts to address the question of; what impact is the BRI likely to have on the security ties between China and the other major players in the Indo-Pacific?

CHINA

Reviving stalled BRI: China's two-stage approach/ Pradumna B. Rana and Xianbai Ji

RSIS Commentary : No. 0084, 5 May 2020 (F31)

China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has virtually stalled because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Its physical infrastructure component or the Physical BRI has come to a standstill. China is adopting a two-stage approach to revive the BRI.

COVID-19

Cyber attacks on healthcare systems: infrastructure protection critical/ Eugene EG Tan

RSIS Commentary : No. 0103, 22 May 2020 (F31)

Healthcare systems all over the world are being subject to attacks even as the fight against COVID-19 rages on. States need to take critical infrastructure protection - like healthcare systems - more seriously.

Indonesia's regional elections: entering uncharted waters?/ Dedi Dinarto and Titi Anggraini

RSIS Commentary : No. 0101, 21 May 2020 (F31)

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced the Indonesian government to recalibrate the conduct of regional leadership elections, due to be held in September 2020. The Jokowi administration recently rescheduled the election day. That sparked public controversy while not resolving some major problems relating to the conduct of elections.

COVID-19

Future of aviation and the Singapore story/ Faizal Bin Yahya and Shazly Zain

RSIS Commentary : No. 0100, 20 May 2020 (F31)

With COVID-19, the international air transport industry and its associated sectors have collapsed. The meltdown has hit Singapore Airlines and the Changi air hub severely, and going forward, they need to reinvent their respective business models to survive. Their perseverance and ability to innovate successfully will have a significant impact on the resilience of Singapore's economy and society.

Limits to strategic foresight: try wisdom of the crowds/ Shashi Jayakumar and Adrian W J Kuah

RSIS Commentary : No. 0098, 19 May 2020 (F31)

Even for a nation with Singapore's foresight capability, the full-range of COVID-19's consequences could not have been foreseen. Would not now be the ideal time to revisit key tenets of Singapore's foresight enterprise and by implication our national security framework and perhaps limiting the impact of future strategic surprise?

Peacetime SAF: its evolving defence role/ Eddie Lim and Benjamin Ho

RSIS Commentary : No. 0095, 18 May 2020 (F31)

The ongoing COVID-19 health pandemic has witnessed militaries worldwide activated to take part in national efforts. Both MINDEF and the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) have played a robust role in Singapore's fight against the disease. It is timely to examine their roles as part of the nation's repertoire of tools for crisis management and national resilience.

COVID-19

Disinformation: the spreading of islamophobia/ Remy Mahzam

RSIS Commentary : No. 0091, 13 May 2020 (F31)

COVID-19-related disinformation campaigns designed to stoke Islamophobic sentiment are fuelling an uptick in hate attacks targeting Muslims in some countries. The unprecedented conditions created by the ongoing pandemic offer fresh opportunities for extremists to exploit, and require timely interventions.

Jokowi's war on pandemic: growing dependence on TNI?/ Chaula R Anindya and Sigit S. Nugroho

RSIS Commentary : No. 0088, 11 May 2020 (F31)

President Joko Widodo's approach in curbing the COVID-19 outbreak has further strengthened the Indonesian Armed Forces (TNI)'s role in the country.

The ASEAN-led multilateral order: unravelling?/ Hencrick Z. Tsjeng and Shawn Ho

RSIS Commentary : No. 0087, 11 May 2020 (F31)

The unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic has exposed deep ideological divisions and geopolitical rivalries, especially between the US and China. ASEAN once again risks getting caught in between the two contentious major powers. ASEAN's role in balancing such rivalries and managing regional cooperation is yet again being tested.

COVID-19

Tackling Aby Sayyaf: need to rethink strategies/ Rommel C. Banlaoi

RSIS Commentary : No. 0086, 8 May 2020 (F31)

Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, the Abu Sayyaf Group continues its militant activities in the Southern Philippines and Sabah. There is a need to rethink strategies by both the Philippines and Malaysia to tackle the ASG more effectively.

China-Taiwan mask diplomacy: wooing Southeast Asia?/ Frederick Kliem

RSIS Commentary : No. 0085, 8 May 2020 (F31)

While the US has largely abdicated its global leadership amidst the COVID-19 crisis, the People's Republic of China and Taiwan are leveraging on the pandemic as a soft power opportunity. Southeast Asia receives particular attention.

Price of pandemic: weakened trade system exposed/ Evan Rogerson

RSIS Commentary : No. 0083, 4 May 2020 (F31)

The global trade outlook following the onslaught of the COVID-19 pandemic is undeniably dark. For a durable recovery it is imperative to build on the leadership that some governments have shown and revive the multilateral system.

CYBER

US cyber strategy of persistent engagement & defend forward : implications for the alliance and intelligence collection/ Max Smeets

Intelligence and National Security : Vol. 35, No 3, April 2020, pp.444-453 (99)

This article evaluates the implications of U.S. cyber strategy of persistent engagement for the alliance and intelligence collection. This paper concludes suggesting several ways forward, including the creation of a new NATO-memorandum of understanding on cyber operations. The assessment of this article takes place in five steps. The first section notes that, historically, allied states operate in each other's systems. The second section addresses the benefits of this activity and efforts of the U.S. to more closely collaborate with allies in this space. The third section subsequently discusses the four avenues of how the strategy could lead to negative implications for the alliance: i) loss of trust due to offensive cyber effects operations in allied systems or networks; ii) compromise of allied intelligence operations and capabilities; iii) exploitability of the strategy by adversaries; and iv) the implementation (and justification) of persistent engagement by other countries. The final section concludes and provides a potential proposal to move forward.

INDO PACIFIC

**The Indo-Pacific: a 'new' region or the return of history?/
Manjeet S. Pardesi**

*Australian Journal of International Affairs: Vol.74 Issue 2,
April 2020, pp.124-146 (36)*

An historical overview of Asia as a strategic system since the beginning of the Great Divergence is important because the recent need to rethink Asia in Indo-Pacific terms has been largely driven by the rise of China and India. Regions emerge out of the threefold interrelationship of politico-military interaction capacity, strategic perceptions of the regional states, and the perceptions and strategic behaviour of the great powers affected by large-scale political, economic, or military changes that have an impact on the military interaction capacity of states.

INDONESIA

Countering violent extremism through state-society partnerships : a case study of de-radicalisation programmes in Indonesia/ I Gusti Bagus Dharma Agastia

The Journal of Policing, Intelligence and Counter Terrorism : Vol 15, Issue 1, April 2020, pp.23-43

This paper critically examines the role of CSOs in mitigating the shortcomings of government-sponsored de-radicalisation programmes in Indonesia. The paper concludes by offering a possible roadmap that might help enhancing partnerships between government and CSOs in de-radicalisation of violent extremist offenders. This paper is based on a study which combines a review of existing frameworks on de-radicalisation with in-depth expert interviews from government officials and CSO representatives specialising in de-radicalisation in Indonesia.

Re-thinking Indonesia

Defense & Foreign Affairs Strategic Policy: No.5-6, 2020, pp.10-12 (22)

Indonesia is at a strategic crossroad that has interrupted the Indonesian economy in early 2020. Even so, Indonesia is planning to make significant improvement in its strategic position as well as its economy and defense capabilities amidst the coronavirus crisis.

LEADERSHIP

Humanitarian pause: urgent need for global leadership/ Noeleen Heyzer

RSIS Commentary : No. 0094, 15 May 2020 (F31)

As the international community grapples with its most serious public health crisis, there is urgent need for a humanitarian pause in superpower rivalry to enable collective interventions to deal with the threat from the COVID-19 pandemic.

MALAYSIA

Spotlight on Malaysia/ Peter Donaldson

Military Technology: Vol. XLIV, Issue 4, 2020, pp.32-35 (38)

The article focuses on Malaysia and their defence spending that is limited but relatively modest for them to improve their defence industrial base.

MILITARY EQUIPMENT

Hand weapons and equipment for soldiers/ Brian Kindamo

Military Technology: Vol. XLIV, Issue 3, 2020, pp.12-16 (38)

Handgun technology and associated enhancements continue to play a significant role in the armed forces globally; as a personal defence mechanism or as a primary weapon system that is capable of supporting small unit operations.

Asia-Pacific unmanned aerial vehicle directory 2020/ Jr Ng

Asian Military Review: Vol.28, Issue 2, March 2020, pp.16-29 (60)

Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) has continued to proliferate in the Asia Pacific region especially driven by increasing demand for persistent presence and surveillance from countries with large land and maritime domains to secure. Hence this article presents a country by country guide to maintain UAV ownership, its development and future acquisition.

NUCLEAR

India's nuclear counter-revolution: nuclear learning and the future of deterrence/ Frank O'Donnell

The Nonproliferation Review : Vol 26 No 5 - 6, November - December 2019, pp.407-426

This article examines India's learning pathway since 1998 and instead they are pursuing its own "revolution" in the direction of creating capabilities for flexible response and escalation dominance. It also shows the similarities between Indian strategic behaviour and contemporary practices of other nuclear-armed states and suggests that New Delhi's emerging de facto nuclear doctrine and posture is part of a broader empirical challenge to our current conceptions of the nuclear revolution and of nuclear learning.

Pakistan's nuclear future: continued dependence on asymmetric escalation/ Diana Wueger

The Nonproliferation Review : Vol 26 No 5 - 6, November - December 2019, pp.449-463

This article discusses the beginning of Pakistan's reliance on the nuclear revolution, especially the notion that nuclear-armed states will not go to war with one another. It also argued that this reliance on nuclear deterrence is a response both to Pakistan's security environment and to serious constraints on moving away from nuclear weapons. Hence Pakistan's central problems remains the same as when it first contemplated nuclear weapons: the threat from India, the absence of true allies, a weak state and a weaker economy and few friends in the international system.

NUCLEAR

Samudra: India's convoluted path to undersea nuclear weapons/ Yogesh Joshi

The Nonproliferation Review : Vol 26 No 5 - 6, November - December 2019. pp.481-497

The article discusses the history and the future of India's sea-based nuclear weapons and how India is planning to maintain robust command and control over its undersea nuclear weapons.

SECURITY

Why trust you? security cooperation within humanitarian NGO networks/ Andrea Schneiker

Disasters: Vol.44, Number 1, January 2020, pp.25-43 (23)

The article demonstrates that trust is the main driving force behind security-related cooperation within networks of humanitarian NGOs. However the type and how trust is built depends on the structure of the network itself.

SINGAPORE

New shopping cart for the Republic of Singapore Air Force/ Chen Chuanren

Defence Review Asia: February 2020, Vol. 14, No. 1, pp.10-12 (146)

Through a series of modernisation plan, Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF) is now moving to achieve the Ministry of Defence (Mindef) 2030 vision of next generation armed forces with new purchases and upgrades.

SOUTH CHINA SEA

Tensions rising, again: South China Sea dispute 2.0?/ BA Hamzah

RSIS Commentary : No. 0082, 4 May 2020 (F31)

China's unrelentingly assertive military posture in support of its fishermen in the South China Sea driven by rising nationalism can lead to low-level skirmishes with regional navies. This can complicate US-China relations and undermine ties with ASEAN as President Donald Trump looks for a diversionary foreign policy.

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Pushing back with OPVs/ Tim Fish

Asian Military Review: Vol.28, Issue 2, March 2020, pp.06-08 (60)

China's ongoing maritime expansion across the Indo-Pacific has alerted the countries in the region to improve and expand their maritime security by increasing the OPVs.

TERRORISM

Al Qaeda in the Indian subcontinent: comparing the movement in India and Bangladesh/ Mohammed Sinan Siyech

The Journal of Policing, Intelligence and Counter Terrorism : Vol 15, Issue 1, April 2020, pp.64-82

This article documents the rise of Al Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) in two countries, India and Bangladesh. Due to a lack of space, it will not dive deep into the group's activities in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Moreover, AQIS propaganda and linkages between India and Bangladesh are intertwined leading me to focus specifically on the group in these two nations. This paper argues that the groups' growth has been slow but steady in both countries and that despite having a minimal presence in the two nations, it will only grow, especially if security agencies perceive it as weak and impotent.

International cooperation for counter-terrorism : a strategic perspective/ Syed Yusuf Saadat

The Journal of Policing, Intelligence and Counter Terrorism : Vol 15, Issue 1, April 2020, pp.83-93

This paper advocates that there exists a strategic rationale for international cooperation for counter-terrorism, both in ancient Chinese wisdom and in contemporary game theory. By revealing clear strategic advantages, this paper aims to influence policy-makers of various countries to prioritise mutual cooperation for mutual benefit.

VIETNAM

A coercive brotherhood : Sino-Vietnamese relations from the 1990s to 2018/ Christina Lai

Journal Of Contemporary China : Vol.29, No. 123, May 2020, pp.469-486 (102)

This article traces the development of Sino-Vietnamese relations from normalization to their participation in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), China's assertiveness in the South China Sea (SCS), and to the recent re-adjustment of their bilateral ties. This study proposes a framework of 'coercive rhetoric' in capturing their official statements to signal benign intentions toward Asian neighbours, and to constrain foreign behaviour from both sides. More importantly, Sino-Vietnam relations also affect the structure of Southeast Asian politics, because this discursive context presents great opportunities for China and Vietnam to participate in regional integration and economic development.

WAR

Sleeping soldiers: on sleep and war/ Helen M Kinsella

Security Dialogue : Vol.51, No.2-3, April-June 2020. pp. 119-136 (47)

This article explore sleep as a weapon of war, as a logistic of war and as a metaphor for conscience in war. It also proposes the idea of the capacity to sleep as a measure of the effects of strategies of war and to recalibrate understandings of intimacy and vulnerability in war.

Exercising war: how tactical and operational modelling shape and reify military practice/ Dan Oberg

Security Dialogue : Vol.51, No.2-3, April-June 2020. pp. 137-154 (47)

This article analyzes how contemporary military training and exercises shape and reify specific modalities of war.

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