



## Geopolitics rising of China and the responses of south east asian countries

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### Abstract

After the disintegration of the USSR, the bipolarity came to an end and the era of US hegemony started. But the sudden rise of China in geopolitical ground became a counter for the NATO pact and made the world bipolar again. The consequences seem to be simple but in the ground field, the evolution of the Chinese military power and economic power has shown its potential hegemony in the concerned region.

**Keywords:** geopolitics rising of China, economy in geo-politics

### Introduction

China ranks first in terms of population and third in terms of area in the world. In its northern, western, and southern regions, it shares borders with fourteen nations. On its eastern side, it shares a coastal boundary with Korea Bay, the East China Sea, and the South China Sea. The geo-political rising of China mainly means China becoming the center of attraction in the global village. The main reason is the geo-political power which includes its military power and geo-economic power. The main reason why China is attracting countries like Pakistan, Myanmar, Malaysia, North Korea etc is due to its permanent membership in the VETO power of the United Nations Organisation. This gives an advantage for the Chinese government to apply diplomacy in the world's politics. Another reason is for the security, China has successfully become a Nuclear nation in terms of military power and overtook many important countries like UK, France, Germany etc in terms of air force and naval power. China currently has around 400 nuclear warheads and around 1400 ballistic missiles. The PLA has the largest number of army personnel of around 2 million. Equipped with upgraded versions of arsenals for the land army, PLA's air force also has access to the fourth generation fighter plane. Having a length of around 18000 km long coastline, PLA's naval forces are equipped with all the modern vessels such as aircraft carrier, helicopter carrier, submarine, auxiliaries etc. Currently China's economy surpassed the US's economy in terms of Purchasing Power Parity, accounting for about 27 trillion US\$ and its Nominal or real GDP accounts for around 15 trillion US\$. China has a trade relationship with around 80% of the world, where about 121 nations import goods and services from China and China imports goods and services from around 80 countries. China generally exports electrical appliances and equipment, machinery including computers, textiles, rubber, fuel, fertilizers and agricultural products. The importance of Geo-economy is very important in today's era, we have already experienced it through the Russia-Ukraine war. Russia, having a GDP of around 1.5 Trillion US\$ [PPP] was being sanctioned by the NATO members for its action against Ukraine, but the consequences were immense causing a crisis in the European region and the sanction failed to stop the war. A fresh example just to highlight the importance of the Economy in Geo-politics.

### Glimpse of China's hegemony-South China sea issue

Rise of China is good for many reasons but once known as the sleeping Giant has awakened and knows its potential. The action of the Chinese government is not liked by many countries, most importantly its neighboring countries. The problem faced by the Taiwan, Tibet and Hong Kong Govt is ethically a regional problem but the main problem arises when the Chinese government tries to break the International law of the water bodies known as United Nation conference on the law of The Sea (UNCLOS). China already have a coastline of about 18000 km but intentionally wanting to control the whole South China Sea region, they illegally built an artificial island over a reef Known as the Fiery Cross Reef. During 2014, the Chinese government began acquiring land to build a large artificial island that would support an approximately 3,300-meter runway, a port, and a military base. China spent about \$11.5 billion to expand the island. The Fiery Cross runway was completed in January 2016 and two civilian aircraft made a test landing there in January 2016. The PLA reported that a Chinese military aircraft made a public landing there in April 2016., including Jet Fighters, have been spotted there since April 2016. Late in 2016, photos emerged suggesting that the Fiery Cross Reef is armed with anti-aircraft guns and a CIWS missile defense system.

### Reasons for such action

- South China sea being one of the busiest sea routes connects the world's two most populous regions i.e. Eastern Asia with the South Asian countries.
- Credible findings of hydrocarbon resources such as crude and oil resources.
- Claiming the whole South China sea based on its historical right to the area dating from the XIA Dynasty (2000-1600 BCE).

### Responses of south east asian countries Vietnam

There was an incident where a Chinese coast guard ship hit and sank a Vietnamese fishing boat. In response, Vietnam issued a diplomatic protest to the Chinese government and asserted its own territorial claims. China's actions endanger the lives, safety and legitimate interests of Vietnamese fishermen, said Le Thi Thu Hang, spokeswoman for the Vietnamese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. "China's

Shipbuilding Undermines Vietnam's Sovereignty." Vietnam also claimed that Fiery Cross Reef belongs to those demanding historical justice.

### Philippines

A similar situation occurred in the Philippines in 2019, when a Philippine boat sank after colliding with a Chinese ship." Incidents like this have reduced the possibility of truly deep and reliable regional relations between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and China. The Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs said, "It's always a good time to protect and strengthen our sovereignty."

### Indonesia

In December 2019, Indonesia made a diplomatic protest against China in response to Chinese coast guard and fishing vessels entering Indonesian waters. "Natuna is part of Indonesian territory, there is no doubt about that," Indonesian President Joko Widodo said in January, referring to the islands in the South China Sea, which China considers traditional fishing grounds. "Our sovereignty is not negotiable," Widodo said. Since the outbreak of the global COVID-19 pandemic, China has also: Announced new "research stations" for military bases on Fiery Cross Reef and Subi Reef. Special warplanes landed on Fiery Cross Reef. Sent a naval energy research vessel and Chinese Coast Guard vessels under cover of naval vessels to prevent Southeast Asian claims from accessing offshore resources. The new administrative regions of the Paracels and Spratlys under the municipality of Sansha City in Hainan Province have been announced. They Continued to deploy naval militia around the Spratly Islands. The state department has canceled on the Chinese government "to stop exploiting the distraction or vulnerability of other states to expand its unlawful claims in the South China sea." The Fiery Cross Reef became an important discussion among the South East Asian countries and other non-involved countries like Malaysia, Taiwan, Singapore and Brunei became aware and started claiming their parts of reefs and islands in and around the South China Sea.

### The threat of China's rise

Many scholars have examined the potential implications of China's rise for global security or world peace. Along with Glaser (2011), who relies on realist views in his argument, the developing quality of China makes China more firmly seek borders, which in turn can make the United States and other countries oppose it. This miracle inevitably draws parallels to the cold war stalemate between the United States and the Soviet Union, and perhaps even a hegemonic war. In essence, many Western neorealist IR scholars have so far painted a bleak picture of regional security in East Asia and see a

critical almost Chinese risk. Hence China's emerging or emergent control in and within the East Asian region. The world is a threat to its neighbors and even to the United States in the coming decades, this could be a huge problem that has been widely discussed in Western IR academic circles and among Western and Japanese policy experts. According to the idea of changing the control structure, as a country becomes rich and powerful, it inevitably seeks more visible regional and then global political influence, which can create an altar to the power structure. locally and

globally. Overall, the altar of the newly established control structure due to the rise of regional and world governance is a long-term threat to the security of the region and even to the stability of the world. Analyzing the control structure, China can be a threat to the security of the East Asian region and the United States and its main partner in East Asia, Japan. Thus, Asia is likely to experience more global clashes in the near future (Ross, 2015). According to Lemke and Warner (1996), war is most likely to occur when the control of an emerging, frustrated state breaks even with a dominant state, in this case the United States. At that point, equity of control allows those committed to changing the status quo to act. Traveler has been associated with China as a rising control that aims to change the status quo in the East Asian region. Moreover, China's desire to change the universal status quo can be explained by China's authentic past memory and desire to restore the Middle Kingdom status; his assurance that it would eliminate the heavy legacy of a century of national depreciation; his desire to reproduce a conventional Chinese central world order, which means controlling the political and economic structures of the world; and his belief that China's external security was largely provided by a solid state in the past (Swaine; Daly and Greenwood, 2000). Second, because of its spectacular economic development, China started from the 1970s. modernizing its equipped forces by importing much of the advanced weaponry from abroad. This has led many observers to argue that China is not seeking hegemony in East Asia, especially its territorial claims in the South China Sea, but is also asserting its influence in the global circle, which is likely to force the United States to compensate for China's difficulties. weight and if this situation continued, a hegemonic war would be on the horizon (Lynn-Jones, 2000).

### The rise of China and international peace

While many scholars have expressed cynical views about the threat of China's rise to global security, others who have room for liberals to congregate view China's rise as emphatically key to global economic participation and global peace. Friedman (1999) sometimes argues that the modern universal framework of globalization has now clearly replaced the Cold War. Globalization, the integration of markets, steps back and forth in a way that shrinks the world from an estimated average size to a small one, gives each of us the opportunity to reach the world further, faster and cheaper than ever before. Like all past worldwide frameworks, it is specifically or by implication forming the household legislative issues, financial arrangements, and remote relations of essentially each nation. Indeed in spite of the fact that this see appears to be at slightest marginally doomsayer, most individuals would concur that globalization has specifically or in a roundabout way re-shaped the remote relations of nearly each nation huge or little, counting the Joined together States, an built up control, and China, a rising control.

Not at all like Germany in the late 1800s and early 1900s or Japan in the period between the two world wars, where Ye (2002) prefers the emerging control of China to its consolidation in globally acceptable regimes such as the WTO or the IMF. it is best to participate with increased powers and follow global standards and regulations. In the traditional universal framework, dominated by control law problems, the level of integration and interdependence were

exceptionally low due to the absence of productive universal organizations such as the WTO, IMF, World Bank, etc., and the constructed participation of both in administration. up or to the rising forces. Moreover, preparations for globalization have gone too far to expand the joint influence of economies to various countries, and China is not a special case. In other words, China has rebalanced its approach from self-sufficiency to participation in the global financial framework. China has so far become part of the IMF, the World Bank and other global economic education, and has been exceptionally dynamic in education, which it once denounced as a tool of capitalist government. The pleasant and integrative nature of the Chinese government clearly shows that China has a desire to coordinate itself into the world advertising framework and capture the rapid pace of globalization (Ye, 2002). In other words, China not only changed its way of thinking towards the world from self-sufficiency to participation, but also took a more dynamic part in these universal economic governance.

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