

ABSTRACTS

Chinese Modernization: New Phases and Emerging Opportunities

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ABSTRACT: Talk of Chinese economic woes and possible collapse has resurfaced in recent years, reflecting the West's flawed understanding of China's development advantages amid worldwide changes. As a result, many Westerners are unable to identify and utilize emerging strategic opportunities as China has entered a new phase of its modernization. Historically speaking, transitions from an old international system to a new one present a dual opportunity: colonial and hegemonic orders are giving way to a more just and reasonable order; and China's modernization amid a world that is more globalized, diversified, and democratic has increased Beijing's ability to shape its environment. From a spatial perspective, as technological and industrial revolutions accelerate, Beijing's recent drive to promote a more open economy also presents unprecedented opportunities for the outside world: a huge domestic market, upgraded productive capacity, extensive rail networks, growing digital trade, and fast green transitions. In terms of state-to-state relations, Beijing pushes the vision of humanity as a community of shared future in a bid to overcome the age-old logic of power politics, focusing on joint efforts at institutional innovation and reform to promote international stability and effective global governance.

KEYWORDS: Chinese modernization, new strategic opportunities, international system, open economy, new types of international relations

Global Structure, Policy Choices, and the Future of China-U.S. Relations

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ABSTRACT: The trajectory of China-U.S. relations is pivotal for the future international order. Rooted in the perspective of structural realism, there is a viewpoint anticipating an inevitable path toward conflict and war between China and the United States. Through a detailed analysis of the structural starting point of China and the United States, this study reveals distinctive features in their

relations concerning the economy, security, ideology, and global issues, which set it apart from the dynamics of the “new cold war”. In essence, the economic structure is oriented toward development, the security environment emphasizes peace, ideology embraces inclusivity, and addressing global challenges leans towards cooperation. Commencing from a specific structural standpoint, prioritizing peaceful coexistence and mutually beneficial cooperation emerges as the optimal choice, while the route towards conflict and war is acknowledged as excessively costly. Nevertheless, the sustained effectiveness of a specific structure hinges on the policy choices made by both China and the United States. In a broader context, both governments are proactively managing differences and fostering cooperation, thereby averting a descent into a “new cold war”. Regardless of potential shifts in U.S. policy toward China, China is urged to adopt a proactive role in shaping bilateral relations. This involves fortifying the structural processes that favor development, peace, and diversity, amplifying the peaceful, mutually beneficial, and stable aspects of the structure, and leveraging its power to curb any inclination towards a “new cold war” against China.

KEYWORDS: structural realism, structural starting point, China-U.S. relations, new cold war

Consensus and Differences between Two Parties: U.S. Competition Policy to China

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ABSTRACT: Both the Trump administration and the Biden administration implement strategic competition policy to China. This shows that the two Parties in the United States have reached a basic consensus on their China policies. Both regard China as the “primary threat and biggest opponent,” abrogating the past “engagement policy” and adopting a competition-oriented China policy. Although the two Parties in the United States have reached a consensus, there are differences in the degree of toughness, policy objectives, competition intensity, and willingness to cooperate with China. The key difference between the two Parties’ China policies is that the Democrats are trying to manage its competition with China to ensure it won’t spin out of control, while the Republicans are calling for a more intense competition with China and are more tolerant of a “new cold war” with China. The differences are not only the deep-seated reasons for the differences in interest groups and values behind the two Parties, but also

the factors for the differences in the level of exchanges between the policy elites of the two Parties with China. In the future, the differences between the two Parties' China policies will continue to exist, and there is also the possibility of convergence and evolution. China should respond actively, try its best to contain the negative tendency of the Republican Party's China strategy, and promote the healthy and stable development of China-U.S. relations.

KEYWORDS: China-U.S. relations, two Parties of the United States, consensus, key differences, strategic competition

Cyberspace and Hegemony Maintenance: The Evolution and Driving Mechanisms of U.S. National Cybersecurity Strategies

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ABSTRACT: In March 2023, the Biden administration released its National Cybersecurity Strategy, the fourth cybersecurity strategy document published by the U.S. federal government over the past two decades. As a country possessing asymmetric technological advantages and a dominant position in cyberspace, the United States has enshrined maintaining cyber hegemony as its chief goal. From the Bush administration to the Trump administration, and now under the Biden administration, U.S. strategic objectives in cyberspace have evolved from domestic control and international shaping to unilateral maintenance and multilateral out-competing. The strategic choices for cybersecurity have also undergone four developmental stages: homeland defense, cyber deterrence, offensive actions, and comprehensive containment. The successive national cybersecurity strategies released by the U.S. government demonstrate certain continuities as well as significant differences, reflecting evolution in U.S. perception regarding cyberspace, its own power status, and security threats. With the change in its relative comprehensive strength, the United States has undergone a major shift in its understanding of the external environment, including a changing perception of cyber threats. Driven by geopolitical factors and the securitization process in cyberspace, U.S. strategic narratives regarding cybersecurity have also changed, becoming the primary mechanisms driving U.S. national cybersecurity strategy. This in turn intensifies the securitization and ideologization of cyberspace.

KEYWORDS: the United States, National Cybersecurity Strategy, hegemony maintenance, threat perception, strategic narrative

“Three Initiatives” and China’s Diplomacy in Central Asian in the New Era

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ABSTRACT: Since 2021, President Xi Jinping has put forward three global initiatives: the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, and the Global Civilization Initiative. These initiatives not only provide crucial solutions to global challenges but also offer theoretical support and strategic guidance for China’s diplomatic endeavors in Central Asia. China and the five Central Asian countries are good neighbors, good friends, good partners, and good brothers who share the same destiny. Over the past three decades, China’s diplomatic relations with Central Asia have achieved remarkable success. Presently, China should advance the Global Development Initiative to promote common development between China and the Central Asian countries; promote the Global Security Initiative to achieve common security between China and the Central Asian countries; and pursue the Global Civilization Initiative to enhance people-to-people bonds and mutual learning among civilizations between China and the Central Asian countries, so as to build a China-Central Asia community with a shared future featuring mutual assistance, common development, universal security, and everlasting friendship.

KEYWORDS: Global Development Initiative, Global Security Initiative, Global Civilization Initiative, Diplomacy in Central Asian

Security Order Transition in East Asia and China’s Regional Strategic Choices

WU Lin

ABSTRACT: Since the end of the Cold War, the security order in East Asia has undergone three phases of transformation. It shifted from a hegemonic order characterized by the strengthening of the Japan-U.S. alliance and the firm control of regional security leadership by the United States to a composite order where East Asian cooperation thrived. This composite order allowed the U.S. alliance system to maintain dominance while simultaneously permitting the compatible development of East Asian cooperation. The latest transition, observed since 2017, involves the transformation of the U.S. alliance system, impacting the competitive order of East Asian cooperation. China has played a direct role in shaping the shifts in East Asian security order. By managing China-U.S. relations, orchestrating a peaceful power shift, fostering regional political trust,

constructing new economic relations to drive new security dynamics, and facilitating the peaceful resolution of disputes while shaping multilateral governance for regional security, China has gradually established its regional role and strategy across the dimensions of power, relations, and governance. To prevent the further slide of the competitive security order toward confrontation and conflict, China should prioritize the fundamental objective of reconstructing order stability. While maintaining its strategic sustainability, China should enhance the development of a new security framework and concentrate on key cooperation directions within the Global Security Initiative (GSI). It is crucial to innovate and provide regional public goods, thereby accumulating momentum for the long-term vision of transitioning East Asia from a competitive order to an inclusive one.

KEYWORDS: East Asian security order, U.S. alliance system, East Asian regional cooperation, Global Security Initiative

Locked Fragile Statehood: Hybrid Security Provision and the Dilemma of National Security Capacity Building in Sub-Saharan Africa

LI Yincui

ABSTRACT: Due to the absence or ineffectiveness of national security mechanisms, the security provision in sub-Saharan Africa appears to be localized, socialized, commercialized, and externalized. Non-state actors within a state and transnational actors from outside are grouped in different times and places. Security provision is not from a single one with top-down centralized features, but a fragmented and “multiple hybrid” pattern in which multiple security entities are complementary and competitive. In this landscape, it is difficult to distinguish clearly between “state” and “non-state,” “formal” and “informal,” “modern” and “traditional,” as they overlap and interweave together. The localized, socialized, commercialized, and externalized trend has caused national security capabilities to be firmly tied up, and the entire security building has been “involved”, so that the status of a “fragile state” has been “locked.” For the lack of sufficient impetus for nationalization, the current “multiple hybrid” pattern is difficult to surpass, and is likely to be long-term. As a global security depression, there is huge space for security cooperation between China and this region. China can start from both conceptual innovation and practical operations to promote the implementation of the “Global Security Initiative.”

KEYWORDS: sub-Saharan Africa, security provision, “multiple hybrid” Pattern, capacity building, Global Security Initiative

How Can Periphery Countries Successfully Shape International Norms: An Analysis Based on the Latin American Countries’ Experience

DONG Qingqing

ABSTRACT: The contemporary international order is predominantly shaped by core countries in the international system, such as the United States and European nations. Countries located at the periphery are not merely recipients of Western norms; they actively participate in shaping the international normative order. This study examines the moral and power logics within their norm-shaping paths to explore the conditions under which peripheral countries can successfully shape international norms. The analysis focuses on cases of Latin American countries, as typical peripheral nations, participating in shaping norms related to sustainable development goals, food sovereignty, and drug governance. It aims to answer how weaker actors successfully advocate norms and engage in shaping the international order. For periphery countries, the ability to activate the moral logic of norms and propose normative content resonating with a broader group of developing countries plays a decisive role in the formation of international norms. The attitude of core countries has a regulatory effect on the strength of international norms. Peripheral countries can use learning mechanisms, actively engaging in rule innovation within international organizations, to drive a shift in the existing ideologies of core countries.

KEYWORDS: international order, norm shaping, periphery countries, Latin American diplomacy