

ABSTRACTS

The Global South and Security Communities: A Decolonial Reflection on Theory

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ABSTRACT: Former colonizer states have established security communities among themselves by mutually restraining through common rules, thus avoiding further conflicts. In contrast, former colonies have built security communities through non-interference and mutual recognition of sovereignty and independence without involving common rules, which has caused unease among the former colonizers. The attributes of the member states in these two types of security communities differ. Following the Westphalian system, the former colonizer states experienced horrific massacres and world wars, making them aware of the need for restraint to establish order, thus emphasizing rules. Former colonies, however, have been fragmented by colonialism and are, at best, incomplete regimes, making them vastly different from states accustomed to the Westphalian system. As a result, they pursue recognition of their independence by the international community, which has been met with accusations from former colonizer states. These former colonies are accused of being as unrestrained as their former colonizers and are seen as sources of contemporary security threats. This demonstrates that countries with different coloniality have different conceptions of security communities. This article uses the Global South as an integrated identity category to compare the different needs of the states of different coloniality within security communities and uses the Shanghai Cooperation Organization as an example to point out the limitations of some security community research, which still falls into the trap of colonialist thinking.

KEYWORDS: securitization, desecuritization, security community, coloniality, Global South, Shanghai Cooperation Organization

A Regionalist Analysis of China-U.S. Strategic Competition

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ABSTRACT: In the context of a new era, the transformation of U.S.-China relations presents a daunting and uncertain challenge. The most notable features of this shift include changes in its underlying logic, operational arenas, and ultimate conditions, all of which diverge significantly from the past. The two countries face an unprecedented level of difficulty in their comprehensive

strategic competition, fueled by a lack of experience, mutual strategic suspicion, and a multitude of challenges. As a result, ongoing adjustments, experiments, and innovations in concepts, strategies, and actions are likely to become the norm in U.S.-China relations for the foreseeable future. As two major global powers, the strategic rivalry between China and the U.S. not only shapes the trajectory of economic globalization and the emergence of a multipolar world but is also profoundly influenced by these trends. In recent years, both nations have focused on reinforcing their respective regional cooperation mechanisms, engaging in competition across various sectors, including industry, technology, finance, defense, and diplomacy. This competition aims to enhance their competitive advantages and international influence, ultimately seeking to secure greater opportunities and rights in shaping the future of the multilateral international order. The author argues that the regional competition between China and the U.S. offers a unique perspective for analyzing the evolution of their relationship. It also underscores the increasing significance of regional platforms in future global political and economic interactions. Consequently, this paper examines three dimensions: the trends of globalization and multipolarity, the strategies and practices of U.S.-China regionalization efforts, and the potential for both countries to return to necessary cooperation. The analysis aims to elucidate the interconnections, and possible pathways for collaboration between them.

KEYWORDS: China-U.S. relations, strategic game-playing, comparative regionalism, globalization, multipolarity

Analysis and Critique of Japan’s Fallacy on “A Taiwan Emergency is a Japanese Emergency”

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ABSTRACT: The notion that “a Taiwan emergency is a Japanese emergency” has a longstanding history in Japan, evolving through various stages from its initial formulation to its current expression. This argument is deeply rooted in both historical and contemporary contexts, reflecting Japan’s interests. Central to this discourse is Japan’s concept of “security linkage” which raises questions about potential shifts in Japan’s policy toward Taiwan. This perspective effectively represents Japan’s interference in China’s internal affairs, conflating the Taiwan question—an internal matter for China—with Japan’s security concerns. In the context of the United States’ strategy to contain and suppress China, the Japan-U.S. alliance has been reinforced, leading to increased intervention in the Taiwan question as a means of containing China. Such developments complicate the Chinese government’s ability to manage and resolve the Taiwan question,

introduce new obstacles to cross-strait reunification, and escalate tensions in the Taiwan Strait. Additionally, this fallacy is influenced by both external factors (e.g., Sino-Japanese relations) and internal dynamics within Japan. Moving forward, Japan is likely to escalate its involvement in the Taiwan question, necessitating vigilance against Japan's efforts to "expand" this fallacy and to "internationalize" the Taiwan question.

KEYWORDS: the Taiwan question, fallacy of the Taiwan Emergency, Japan's policy toward Taiwan, Japan-U.S. alliance

China's Model of Partnership Upgrading: A Case Study of China's Partnership with Central Asian Countries

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ABSTRACT: China has formed a wide-ranging and high-quality global partnership network. Among the more than 100 bilateral partnerships of China, nearly half have undergone upgrades. As a new type of international cooperation, the core of partnership upgrading is to deepen cooperation. In international cooperation, cooperation elements promote cooperation, while cooperation dilemmas hinder cooperation, and the dilemmas under high and low politics are also different. Aiming to overcome cooperation dilemmas and strengthen cooperation elements, China's partnership upgrading model consists of two parts: the upgrading path and the upgrading conditions. Through the upgrading paths of institutionalization and *Heyi*, the cooperation elements of institution and culture are strengthened. Based on the upgrading conditions of mutual trust and mutual benefit, the two types of cooperation dilemmas of uncertainty and preference differences are suppressed. Central Asia is the only region in China's neighborhood where all countries are China's comprehensive strategic partners. The development history of China's partnership with Central Asian countries conforms to the model of partnership upgrading. In the future, to deepen China's partnership further, we should use institutionalization and *Heyi* means focusing on developing mutual trust and mutual benefits, and creating a global partnership network with a wider scope and higher quality.

KEYWORDS: partnership, China-Central Asia relations, mutual trust, mutual benefits

The Evolution of Sovereignty and the Reshaping of International Security Order in the Digital Era

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ABSTRACT: In the context of a new technological revolution, the concepts of

sovereignty—its territory, subjects, elements, and powers—have fundamentally transformed. The rise of digital sovereignty has provided a powerful impetus for reinterpreting international security structures and processes while redefining the relevant actors involved. Traditional theories, such as “territorial sovereignty extension” and “functional sovereignty” fall short of effectively explaining the legitimacy and validity of digital sovereignty. At its core, digital sovereignty represents a form of “technological sovereignty” which depends on a state’s capacity to exercise authority over digital spaces. As digital sovereignty increasingly becomes viewed as a security tool, this shift will alter perceptions of security threats. Consequently, it may trigger competition for national power amid disparities in sovereign capabilities, deepen geopolitical rivalries through “triangular relationships” and exacerbate security dilemmas and the erosion of order in the digital domain. China’s concept of “cooperative sovereignty” aligns well with the inherent characteristics of the digital landscape, offering an innovative approach to mitigating the chaotic competition surrounding digital sovereignty while promoting a constructive reshaping of international security. However, this concept faces two significant challenges: first, how to address the U.S. pursuit of unilateral digital sovereignty; and second, how to delineate the crucial role of tech giants in the global governance of digital spaces.

KEYWORDS: strategic autonomy, window of opportunity, European Union, transatlantic relations

Power Interaction and Balanced Competition: Analyzing China-U.S.-EU Contest for Digital Power from the Perspective of International Political Economy

YAN Guang and XIN Hua

ABSTRACT: The digital space is emerging as a new arena for geopolitical rivalry. As the digital wave reshapes power dynamics and competitive paradigms, the concept of digital power has arisen in response to these changes. This article constructs a framework for understanding digital power, positing that it derives from the control of digital resources—specifically, digital rules, digital technology, and digital markets. It argues that the logic of digital power competition manifests as a collective capture of digital market power, digital rule power, and digital technology power, rooted in the mutual constraints among these three elements rather than being viewed as a one-sided power monopoly under a technology determinism model, digital power competition should be understood as a two-way power interaction model characterized by competitive interdependence. Currently, the digital power competition among China, the United States, and Europe

reflects an asymmetric “separation of powers” structure. The United States, which positions digital technology as its hegemonic foundation, continues to escalate its digital rivalry with China, creating a climate of disorder, and given the complex conflicts of interest between Europe and the United States regarding dominance in digital technology and rules, both China and the European Union can leverage digital markets and rules as instruments to counterbalance U.S. digital hegemony. This strategy aims to secure greater strategic space and achieve balanced competition.

KEYWORDS: great power competition, digital technology, power, market, norms, power interaction

Private Information, Surprise Attack, and the Causes of War: The Cases of the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict and the Ukraine Crisis

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ABSTRACT: By applying bargaining theory and the theory of surprise attacks from the study of warfare, the paper analyzes the factors that led to the outbreaks of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and the Ukraine crisis, with a focus on the roles of information and intelligence. This approach enhances our understanding of the complexities surrounding the onset of war, both theoretically and in practical terms. Bargaining theory suggests that a state’s military capabilities and willingness to engage in combat are considered private information. Additionally, states often have incentives to misrepresent this information, leading to mutual suspicion in their interactions. This dynamic can be a significant catalyst for conflict. In both the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and the Ukraine crisis, Hamas and Russia sought to demonstrate their military strength and resolve in hopes of compelling Israel and Ukraine to change their positions, yet these attempts ultimately fell short. Moreover, both crises illustrate that private information is not entirely “private” Intelligence available to Israel and Ukraine before the conflicts indicated that hostilities were likely, but this awareness did not prevent the wars from breaking out. Contributing factors include noise in the international environment, inherent flaws in intelligence mechanisms, misperceptions, and the difficulties faced by defensive actors in responding effectively to threats. The research reveals that both sides in a conflict encounter significant challenges when assessing each other’s capabilities and intentions. Understanding these informational constraints is crucial to comprehending how and why conflicts escalate.

KEYWORDS: Palestinian-Israeli conflict, Ukraine crisis, surprise attack, armed conflict