



USA Strategies to Asia: An Analysis From Realist Perspective

Shujahat Ali^{*a}, Muhammad Fahim Khan^b, Nabila Aftab^c

PhD Scholars, University of Peshawar, Peshawar-KPK, Pakistan. *shujahat22@gmail.com

Abstract: Southeast Asia derives its strategic importance mainly from its location at the intersections of the development of military force, technologically advanced and industrialized countries in northeast Asia to the north, the oil-rich Middle East and Indian subcontinent to the east and Australia to the south. It is also an area with vast untapped valuable resources and intersection of the highest trade and commerce routes of the globe. The U.S has established a strong position in Southeast Asia since the end of World War II, that has given much peace. The substantial investment and infrastructure advancement culminated in an accelerated post-war recuperation of the ravaged area that also aided China (now the Financial Gigantic of the Globe) towards rapid economic growth. During most of the Cold War and in the Vietnam War Southeast Asia resounded. United States changed its emphasis from defense to economic matters in Southeast Asia after the end of the Cold War. Market entry' and' market expansion' became the main phrases of US foreign policy for this area, that centered on the Asia-Pacific Forum on Economic Cooperation. Upon assuming office, President Trump reiterated his promises and policy positions for greater emphasis and involvement in the Asia-Pacific region by rewriting it as an Indo-Pacific region to tackle North Korea's imminent threat and ensuring friends of unstinting American commitment for continuing involvement in the region. This is an academic discussion; thus opinions expressed in this work are the views of the researcher himself.

Keywords: Southeast Asia, Asia Pacific forum on economic cooperation, US foreign Policy, North Korea, Indo-Pacific Region

1. Introduction

Southeast Asia's geopolitical significance is primarily due to its position at the center of technically and commercially developed Northeast Asia to the North, oil-rich Middle East, and Indian subcontinent to the West, and Australia to the South. Substantial trade in Japan, China, Taiwan, the Republic of Korea, and Australia, mainly their oil imports, is transported in South East Asia via the Shipping lanes and Sea Lines of Communication (SLOCs). (Noer and Gregory, 1996)[1] Soon after World War II ended, the U.S. retained a considerable footprint in this area as the U.S. was victorious and the result was determined by American nuclear attacks against Japan as an approach to end the war. The existence in the area was expressed with differing motives, uncertain in general [2]. Since

worldwide inflation and Chinese economic boom, the region's geopolitical equilibrium has changed toward China, the South East Asian States' interactions with China have usually been positive.

Recent reforms by the US have revitalized ties with Asia-Pacific and other world powers and are greatly promoting increased defense expenditure and aggressive Southeast Asia and other states in the area's modernization programs. Mutual US military operation with the Republic of Korea, Japan, Myanmar and Vietnam and improved interaction with the Philippines are some of the variables that have contributed to the area's increased tension. Under the premise of traffic rights, ASEAN states are expected to follow America's lead that is causing tension with China. Although China and the US have addressed South China Sea's contentious issues pragmatic by showing patience and reciprocal compromise, periodic tensions creating a level of destabilization owing to rising levels do.

2. Importance of Research Article Asia

Because of its strategic and geo-economic potential and influence tussle between the America and China, the Pacific region has always been quite significant. America sees it as a significant pillar and guarantor of regional security and growth, whilst China sees it as its close worldwide, legitimately entitled to greater dominance in the region. Whilst the Chinese strategy has been commonly illustrated by common growth and progress by win-win collaboration, United States strategy, on the other hand, is more apparent in security and intelligence terms, with unprecedented collaboration in enhancing defensive capability and enhancing physical presence in the region. Ever since, moreover, the power struggle has cooled, a hidden mentality of China's deterrence persists at the core of the strategy preparation of the new American Government. This research paper will disclose and evaluate the Pivot to Asia representatives of the America with possible implications for China and the area.

3. Discourse Analysis of the U.S. Pivot to Asia Policy

U.S. involvement in unstable North and South East Asia area offered stronger level of stability and huge-scale regional development following destruction caused by World War II. Huge investment and industrial construction culminated in fast post-war recovery of impoverished area and also assisted China in rapid economic growth. The National Security Schedulers drew up policy recommendations for preserving overt American involvement in the era 1947-1950 in order to keep their impact on South East Asia's post-war restoration. Architects of the National Security Council realized the need to construct the lengthy-term sustainability and advancement capacity of the old imperial country, so the South East Asian area flourished even during the Cold War and the Vietnam War.

As the Cold War came to an end, America changed its emphasis in Southeast Asia from safety aspects to financial ones. Gorge H. W. Bussh (1989-1993) made free trade the prevailing focus, and as a consequence "Market entry" and "Market Expansion" became the phrases of U.S. foreign policy focused around the A.P.E.C platform. Recently, the US has started to acknowledge Southeast Asia's strategic significance by recognizing the need for "Pivot to Asia" or "Rebalance"[3]. Ex US Sec of state Hilary Clinton has defined this area as the "focal point" for improving a local economic and strategic architecture[4]. A further important element worth mentioning is the presumption that U.S. weapons sales and technological transitions are critical variables in preserving balance of power and preventing China from collaborative engagement.

This has been paired with a smooth redistribution of local political forces as the states continue to privatize against the expected leadership position of China by restating their ties with the America. (Waves of concern, 2011)[5] Washington has stated that it does not accept the jurisdiction of China over the various islands and islands in the Spratly archipelago by claiming that for the sake of preserving difficult-earned navigational rights, the U.S. Navy will last to be working here[6]. This policy shift means moving political, military, and financial resources from several other regions of the world into the area. A powerful pivotal form in South East Asia involves developing

relationships with these states and trying to revive near American connections with the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia and Thailand. President Obama's previous admin has strengthened military coordination with most countries in the region with emphasize on ports. The pivot had many constituents; predominantly changing U.S. foreign policy alignment from Afghanistan and Middle East to Asia-Pacific, changing military assets, and new U.S. arrangements. Marines to other places and friends and allies forming treaties.

The "pivot" to Asia was initiated via an article published by the former Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, in Nov 2011 in the foreign policy journal. It clarified the plans for the future for armed forces reorganizations as "We are reforming our basing provisions with key allies in Northeast Asia whilst also strengthening our existence in Southeast Asia and the Indian Ocean. In "US Primary Projects" portion. The rotating existence of the Military is defined as "US Procedures overseas will be supported by armies, comprising rotational operations and mutual and multilateral military exercises. Such efforts enhance dissuasion, help build U.S., allies, and coalition forces" ability and capability for internally and externally security, improve coalition unity, and enhance U.S. control.

4. New Us-Japan Security Guidelines

Guidelines were signed in 2015 by the U.S. and Japan. The principal components are;

- Make sure lengthy-term tactical engagement such as U.S. forces 'existence in Japan.
- Increasing established collective self-defense, increasing local-to-international collective defense collaboration in conventional and new fields are seen as essential to existing geo-strategic settings, especially cyber security and space.
- 1997 Efforts have been created to resolve the North Korean problem and its revised version in 2015 is seen as a response-action to imperialistic Chinese designs.
- Maritime protection is a major area underlined in the new approaches. This is important to Southeast Asia, as conflicts in the maritime environment substantially increased in the South China Sea, resulting in number of events, such as the Haiyang Shiyou 981 oil-rig stand-off between China and Vietnam, and the remediation efforts of China, to name a few.
- The "Spouse Ability Building" program revealed in the new guidance.
- Japan's increased participation in force projection policies leads to Japan's potential presence as a counter weight to China.
- The idea of New Navel and Sea also indicates an increasing US commitment to Japan's isolation of China.

5. Analytical Discussion on and its Consequences for the Current Situation

The Realists claim Authority as the greatest human ambition. It has two types, that is to say. Offensive realism manifested in optimizing Power and, second, defensive realism manifested in maximizing Safety. In both aspects of Realism, the past US intervention and basing in Southeast Asia and the new Pivot to Asia fits nicely. The following review will draw upon both of these factors.

6. Visualized Effect Of The United States Pivot On Asia

In all policy recommendations, National Military Strategy, and military assessments, the U.S. focus on cultural shift from the Middle East to Asia-Pacific is enhanced. This transition is projected to be China's present economic development that has recorded 9.5 per cent over the last three decades. The observer argue that by trying to overtake the United states in the coming century, the Chinese market, presently the 3rd biggest, and rapidly growing in the globe, is expected to become the world's top economy. The US is expected to enhance relations with the Philippines, Japan, Singapore and the Republic of Korea to illustrate the contingency plans of the Combined Force. The US provides the independent sovereign countries with an aid package to prevent the Chinese Coast Guard in the South China Sea and increase their various maritime law compliance flotillas.

By commonly shaping the strategy, that was originally a 'pivot' and later converted into a 'readjustment' that is now a 'Pacific Dream,' the US has led to the misunderstanding. The US has been ineffective in combating the pivot's media narratives as an integral military campaign, partially because the military component of the pivot is the only element which has constituted the overarching goals of this change. The future acquisition strategy and all other activities demonstrate that U.S. strategies are China-centric with inferred North Korea leaning. Furthermore, regular non-China declarations by U.S. authorities and policy papers and other U.S. allied forces around Southeast Asia testify to increasing risks of China's containment for propagating negative views about China. It is worth noting that the U.S. plans to have an Air Force capable of transmitting power skills globally, as these are vital to the implementation of new approach. At the same time, the updating of newer generation Airforce battle apparatus that contains bombers and fighters—mainly against China's progress air defense systems.

7. Factoring North Korea Atomic Posturing And The Overtures Of President Trump

North Korean nuclear posturing and subsequent hot-word transfer between North Korean leader Kim John UN and President Trump describe highly charged local atmosphere with trigger-ready warning roles on both parties. A tweet from President Trump in March 2017

It is clear that the US is attempting to club China with North Korea, thus paving the way for casus-belief to control China. Notwithstanding Chinese objections and fears, the US is scouring THAAD's (Terminal High Altitude Area Defense) deployment in South Korea on the same justification as coping with North Korea and possible deterrence to China.

8. Changing Security Architecture

Due to a conflict of concerns, security architecture in the area suffers from lack of confidence between China and the U.S. mutual and armed ties. Both countries ' defensive measures to avoid the presumed activities of each other keep feeding regional instability. United States re-balancing act bundled under the notion of Asian Pivot tends to incorporate China's growing influence, causing anxiety about its own protection within the regional powers. The existence of US troops is regarded mainly synonymous with Cold War Containment, which will boost militarization, resistance, and regional tension.

9. South China Sea Problems

The South China Sea argument is backed by Chinese government's declaration of a map in 1948 and subsequent notes sent to the United Nations in May 2009. The argument should therefore be understood and acknowledged by the global community respectively. China's claim to maritime regions in the South China Sea originates from past few decades. First of all, it caused less agitated responses by other complainants because China was more engaged financially with all the ASEAN states[7].

10. Findings Taken From The Analytical Debate Containment Of China

The "Pivot to Asia" policy of USA with displayed military posturing and basing ambitions in China's near worldwide in the East Asian area has largely contributed to the creation of confidence and insecurity. In China, it is widely perceived in political circles that the Obama administration's "Pivot to Asia" in fact disrupted the path of joint venture and unnecessarily stretched discontent by putting the conflicts at the center of attention, thus creating confusion among neighbors about Chinese future intentions given China's outreach and promises of resolving disputes via peacefully and dialogue. The scenario thus created point towards mistrust which is considered unfavorable towards regional stability, bilateral and military relations between China and USA. It is also worth mentioning that Air-Sea Battle element of Pivot to Asia is offensive in outlook and manifestation and perceived to be directed against China, which also contributed towards growing suspicion with deleterious prospects of military relations. The frequently discussed preservation of hard earned freedom of navigation by USA containing surveillance of China undermine trust and harm China's core security concerns, impinge on China's sovereignty which have proved to be destabilizing factors. With the above-mentioned empirical data, it can be indicated that "Pivot to Asia" seems to be America's self-fulfilling prophecy by portraying China as a rival rather than a spouse in regional and global affairs and keeping alive the trumpet of "China Threat Theory," thereby maintaining legal basis for the huge US armed forces presence in the region. Aspects of "China Containment" are appropriately exemplified by US and its regional allies from offensive military doctrines, posturing, and joint military exercises.

11. America Over Commitment To Partnership Partners

The two armed forces i.e. The US and China agree that stronger relationships and awareness of each other's sensibilities are essential to maintaining peace, yet the US army frequently participates in simulated simulations worst-case scenarios of military conflict exhibited during joint exercises with coalition allies. USA's open support of alliance partners in this region and the sequestering of their behavior also contribute to China-US unrest and confidence shortfall. Notwithstanding the strong U.S. relationship with ROK, Taiwan, Japan and many other regional states, nevertheless, the U.S. Security Treaty and huge arms sales to Taiwan, Japan and the Philippines with aggressive postures displayed during military exercises with the U.S. are regarded as a daily annual function as China-specific, degenerating prosperity.

12. China's Focus On Negotiated Dispute Resolution

A further important element worth reviewing is the choice of the Chinese Government and the military for bargaining and mutual respect without the use of power to resolve disputes. But China has, as any other sovereign country, specifically demonstrated for the restoration of sovereignty and independence. At regional and global level, China has introduced an official position of not rewarding US governance that is exemplified by a joint press conference on the side lines of APEC between President Xi Jinping and President Obama. President Xi declared that "China will never question American governance" and President Obama stated that "the US supports China's friendly growth and does not oppose Taiwan's autonomy." President Trump has also reaffirmed his commitment to "One China Policy" [8] in government. It is important to note that, amid threats, conflicts and respectfully resolved its border disputes with twelve States, China has effectively preserved global stability and peace in the last 30 years, which are also extremely convincing endeavors. China has also announced its supporting collaboration with the global and US military to devise a mutual reaction mechanism against developing. The expression of "Pivot to Asia" was viewed as China's repression of U.S.-backed regional hegemony by its partners due to overwhelming armed aspect and aggressive posturing by the U.S. and partners, eroding the confidence level and dragging the region back into cold war mentality.

13. Suggestions For Maintaining Peace And Building Confidence

Trust building between the United States and China

Both the United States and China must develop an extensive view of the relationship based on the principle of "handling disparities for common production," avoiding conflict and bringing steps to build confidence.

- The first element is that the offer of Chinese President Xi Jinping to build "New Type of Major Power Ties" should be codified early by having signed a 4th Communiqué and drawing up a comprehensive framework for execution. Both states should also follow the aim of a lengthy-term relationship which, due to changing political realities and change in the international system, has not yet been delineated after the dissolution of the USSR dimmed the notion of stability in the cold war[9].

- The second element that needs to be addressed is the specific determination by the Americas to remove the prevalent hazard and any misunderstanding of its motives to contain China's harmonious rise by ensuring regard for China's territorial integrity and state sovereignty as well as its system of government. It is proposed that the United States dissipate any misunderstanding of its pledge to partnerships in East Asia, Taking the sensibilities of non-aligned states into consideration; stop a new cold war by showing that it does not aim to split the world.

- And finally, it is proposed that both states should refrain from vilifying each other and take steps to improve cooperation on strategies and initiatives to prevent confusion. Use of media or press conferences has adversely affected bilateral relations to some degree, so dialogs and educational interactions, constructive guarantees, joint exercise to resolve anti-traditional potential threats should be standardized and considered carefully.

Mechanism for handling stress and crisis

- In the area of increased tension and prevalent distrust, it is advised to avoid conflicts and handle crises triggered by alleged miscalculations on either side;

- The first and utmost significant factor is the strategy of constructive cooperation between the US and China to keep channels of communication open, both at reciprocal diplomatic and economic levels. Both states can be participants in major global problems related to anti-traditional safety via military exchanges and military drills. Model of anti-piracy collaboration in the Gulf of Aden is a good place to start that is suggested for capitalization and enhancement for mutually beneficial and for the wider world. Other constructive direction is dedication to regional stability and humanitarian aid operations, in which both states can become reliable participants in the Asia-Pacific region. Given the results of the phase in an imminent or later period, the proposed mechanism of negotiation, collaboration and interaction would create a favorable environment for the positive move of the US-China partnership. [10].

- Furthermore, most important element that needs to be taken into account by all participants is the implementation of substantial steps to create confidence and address connectivity gaps at government and military level. The open-ended and positive dialogs between government ministers and top military officers are one such approach to be started early. Therefore, dialogs should not be anticipated to be definitive overnight, should be scoured with ongoing focus and busy attempts are proposed to be done to keep those concentrated and outcome-oriented, whilst also listening attentively with courage and inquiring mind to each other's roles. It is proposed that regular joint visits by Defense ministers, service chiefs and junior officers will also open the way for improved coordination and confidence building. A number of melting ices has happened with new Trump Government's

involvement strategy that has helped to recognize one another's views, expectations and improved hopes of improved cooperation for the sole benefit of all parties. All govts should also commit to venerating one another's strategic interests, tangible way and empirically interpreting one another's strategic purpose, and taking measures to cultivate constructive societies by removing the possibility of baseless accusations.

- Thirdly, to strengthen bilateral ties on a range of international issues such as: DPRK nuclear issues, Iranian nuclear issues, un-traditional safety such as disaster response operation, non-piracy operations, etc., counter-terrorism and transnational crime, internet-security, environmental problems, stability of the global economic system and continuous supply of energy.

- Fourth, avoidance of conflicts, risk assessment and prevention. There are few recommended initiatives; creating hot lines between the two military forces and codifying the process for informing one another's military maneuvers and major activities and regular trainings for building confidence and preventing blunders and promoting better coordination. The following factors contribute to the establishment of Commitment Rules and SOPs in an appropriate way to cope with difficult situations.

14. Conclusion

The fact that the role of the United States in this area in the post-World War II period has made an enormous contribution to peace and sustainable development is not disputed. Nonetheless, recent advances like the "pivot to Asia" from us and other aggressive acts such as joint exercises and violation of China's independence have increased tension as the situation again forces the world into a cold war mentality of confinement. As a global hegemon, America must reach out to China and other regional states to bridge the confidence gap and create a favorable environment, and military openness must be supported by realistic steps to build confidence between the US and other investors.

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