

China's Reemergence and Its Foreign Policy

Rumi Aoyama
Waseda University
luming@waseda.jp

U.S.-Japan Dialogue on Perspectives on China's Reemergence:
National Security and Foreign Policy
February 27, 2015
The Brookings Institution, Washington DC

CHINA'S FOREIGN POLICY

---- A MORE ASSERTIVE CHINA?

- “A new type of great power relationship” between the U.S. and China
 - Increase in conflicts concerning maritime territorial rights from 2007, especially with the Philippines, Vietnam and Japan
 - BRICS New Development Bank
 - New Silk-Road Strategy
 - & Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)
 - & Silk Road Fund
- ⇒ A more assertive China?
- ⇒ desire to overturn the existing international order?
- ⇒ tensions between its foreign policy and defense strategy?
- ⇒ differences between its approach to the Asian region and approach to major powers outside of Asia?

FUNDAMENTAL GOALS OF CHINA'S FOREIGN POLICY

- To create a favorable international environment
 - To establish a stable relationship with the U.S.
 - To maintain a stable peripheral environment
- To defend China's "core interests"
 - China's territory at land and sea
 - Taiwan
 - Tibet and Xinjiang
- To maintain political and social stability and to keep the momentum of economic growth
- To reemerge as a superpower

CONTINUITY AND CHANGES IN CHINA'S FOREIGN POLICY

The New Silk Road Strategy = China's Marshall Plan ?



- A new slogan for China's Asia policy
- A new term for "West China Development Program"

ASIA POLICY IN CHINA'S GRAND STRATEGY

- China's Asia Policy
- == 周边外交 policy towards its surrounding countries

- “surrounding countries” (周边国家)
== three geopolitical definitions

the narrowest definition

the broadest definition

between the narrowest and the broadest

⇒ Shift from its narrowest definition to the broadest definition

EVOLUTION OF CHINA'S ASIA POLICY

three stages of China's Asia policy

- Shift toward placing importance on surrounding countries: the end of Cold War ~ 1996
- China's engagement policy: 1996 ~ 2006
- Reaffirmation of national interests in Asia: 2006~

CONTINUITY AND CHANGES IN CHINA'S FOREIGN POLICY

■ Changes in China's foreign policy

- Re-definition of its national interests in 2006
economic development



sovereignty, security and developmental interest

- China's Pivot to the West and South

■ What drives these changes in China's foreign policy?

- UNCLOS
- U.S.'s pivot to Asia
- China's assessment of the future new world order

SALIENT FEATURES OF CHINA'S FOREIGN POLICY

■ “Engagement” and multilateralism in China’s foreign policy

- China’s engagement policy in Asia

Shanghai Five (1996) ⇒ SCO (2001)

ARF 1994~

ASEAN+3 1997~

Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) : 2002

TAC : 2003

Six-Party Talks 2003~

SAARC 2005~

- China-CEE Summit
- China-Arab States Cooperation Forum
- China-GCC Strategic Dialogue
- Forum on China Africa Cooperation (FOCAC)

■ Pursuit of global power

■ Reemergence of “South-South cooperation principle” in China’s foreign policy

■ No-compromise on territorial issues

■ Thank you for your attention!