

# ABSTRACTS

## **From Exemplar to Savior: Domestic Psychological Evolution for America's Ascendance**

*PAN Yaling*

**ABSTRACT:** The United States enjoyed a strategic buffering period of about half a century from the late nineteenth century marked by a substantial increase in wealth and influence to the end of the Second World War when it began to dominate the global system. Taking advantage of this period of strategic opportunity, successive administrations conducted three rounds of strategic trial and error—although not deliberately—to gradually transform the nation's social psychology from one of an exemplar to that of a world savior. The first round of strategic trial and error failed because political leaders utilized its newly acquired material gains to earn international support for the American example by way of power politics (as in the Spanish-American War). The second round of trial and error—the opposite of the first one—failed to win social acceptance because policymakers attempted to uphold the purity of the American example through idealistic means. The third round trial and error was finally supported because it was a combination of both power politics and lofty ideals. The American experience has shown that sufficient strategic trials and errors in social psychological shaping is a prerequisite for an emerging great power's sustainable ascendance; and while ensuring that its continued rise in material terms is not compromised, an potential great power has to make the best use of its period of strategic opportunity—not necessarily long enough—to carry out trials and errors in social psychological shaping.

**KEYWORDS:** American ascendance, strategic trial and error, social psychology shaping, American exceptionalism

## **Changes in Sino-American Balance of Power and Resilience of International Order—A Comparative Study of Two Theories**

*YOU Qiming*

**ABSTRACT:** Two competing theories, namely, power transition vs. neoliberal institutionalism, have made different predictions about the net effects of changes in Sino-U.S. power balance on international order. Power transition theory maintains that as a reflection of the distribution of material power among nation-states, the current international order will be overturned after China, the leading emerging power, exceeded the United States, the hegemon. Advocates of this theory point to Beijing's recent assertiveness as evidence of the emerging power's attempt to rewrite international rules in its favor. Neoliberal institutionalists insist that the current rules-based order is resilient enough to accommodate and absorb the shock waves attendant upon a new great power's rise and justify China's behavior as necessary reforms to build a more robust and sustainable world order. Beijing as the ascendant power should try its best to stabilize the Sino-U.S. relationship and advance a new framework to explore the proper role of a rising power in international order.

**KEYWORDS:** Sino-U.S. power balance, international order, power transition, neoliberal institutionalism

## **Chinese Buddhist Outreach in Southeast Asia: A Case Study in China's Religious Diplomacy along the 21st-Maritime Silk Road**

*ZHANG Yuan*

**ABSTRACT:** With the aim of improving bilateral friendships and promoting multilateral cooperation, China's religious diplomacy vis-à-vis countries along the 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road is conducted mainly in the secular public sphere and spiritual civil domain, involving religious luminaries, monumental temples, and religious scriptures. A sinicized religious diplomacy based on a common belief takes the routes of Buddhism's spread and reaches adjacent areas. It promotes mutual learning and envisions a community of shared future for humankind. The strategy selection of Chinese religious diplomacy depends on the degree of mobilization on the part of adherent groups, the extent of social support, and the level of governmental assistance. Indigenization and adaptation to contemporary political institutions could increase the viability and effectiveness of Chinese religious diplomacy.

**KEYWORDS:** 21st-Century Marine Silk Road, religious diplomacy, Buddhist outreach, Southeast Asia

## **Toward a Clean and Beautiful World under A Community of Shared Future Vision**

*LU Guangsheng and WU Boxun*

**ABSTRACT:** A clean and beautiful world is a vision put forward by Chinese President Xi Jinping, pointing the direction of China's environmental governance efforts. The vision and related official statements have outlined an environmentally-friendly development course — featuring economic growth, improved livelihood, and healthy ecosystems—Beijing has chosen to take as it stands ready to participate in a more active manner in global environmental governance by contributing more Chinese wisdom and solutions. Efforts to realize the vision could start in China's neighborhood, for example, the greater Mekong subregion, where a community of shared environment may serve as a

demonstration zone for a broader international effort to build a larger community of shared environment.

**KEYWORDS:** community of shared future for mankind, clean and beautiful world, Mekong community of shared environment

## **The Economic Rationale Behind the Concept of “Indo-Pacific”**

*YANG Yishuang*

**ABSTRACT:** Most interpretations of the concept “Indo-Pacific” highlight the rising economic importance of the Indian Ocean and the growing economic linkage between the Indian Ocean and the Pacific region as the economic basis of lumping together the two regions. However, closer examination shows that it is too early to conclude that Indian Ocean’s economic importance and the Indo-Pacific linkage has changed the global geoeconomic landscape. The emergence and development of the concept largely revolves around the spectacular rise of China. Indo-Pacific advocates, in particular the United States, Australia, Japan, and India, are seeking a common cause vis-à-vis a growing China. However, the four countries differ significantly in their regional economic agenda. Compared with some well-established regional institutions like APEC, ASEAN, and RCEP, regional institutions tailored for Indo-Pacific are still at an embryonic stage. Therefore, it remains to be seen whether this concept can meet the needs of the economic agendas of Australia, Japan and India. The weakness of the economic logic, the differences in the economic agenda, and the inadequacy in the economic content have made it difficult for “Indo-Pacific” to become an effective framework for security and economic cooperation. These factors are worth considering in the assessment of the impacts of regional actors’ “Indo-Pacific” strategies.

**KEYWORDS:** Indo-Pacific region, geopolitics, geoeconomics, economic agenda

## **Major Changes in the Global Development Landscape: Goals, Resources, and Institutions**

*LIU Ning*

**ABSTRACT:** Major changes in terms of goal, resource, and institution are discernible in the current global development landscape. The United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has become the overarching agenda, outmatching some of the developed countries own agendas. Development resources other than official development assistance have multiplied. Various emerging forms of development finance has challenged the ODA's dominant role as the leading model of development finance. Sustainable development has become the focus of international development efforts, coordinating national governments' preferences and steer ODA resources in its favor. Although development finance has placed a higher requirement on the advanced economies in terms of ODA usage, this new financing arrangement will not replace ODA's traditional role in the foreseeable future. Financing will continue to be an important ODA issue. The evolution of global development assistance will depend on the effectiveness of continued ODA reforms within the 2030 Agenda framework.

**KEYWORDS:** official development assistance, sustainable development, development finance, international development system

## **The Inherent Tension of Global Financial Governance: Networked Governance in a Hierarchical Structure**

*YAO Yuan*

**ABSTRACT:** The hierarchical structure and networks-based governance model of

the global financial system create tensions for effective global financial governance. In the global financial hierarchy, power differentials, functional divisions, interest divergences, disproportional distribution of financial power are the causes of disagreements and disputes between core countries on the one hand and peripheral ones on the other. In the networks-based governance structure, the fact that members are co-equals bound by soft laws tends to level the global hierarchical structure. Two mechanisms are created to moderate the tension between the hierarchical structure and networked-based governance, i.e., horizontal competition between networks, whereby functional and interest divergences among core actors and peripheral ones drive each camps to participate in different networks composed of like-minded countries to engage in normative competitions; and vertical divisions of labor whereby core actors makes the best use of their structural advantages to play a dominant role in agenda-setting, standard-making, and supervision. As one of the most important peripheral actors in the global financial system, China has to actively participate in regional financial rule-making while strengthening coordination with advanced economies, thereby increasing its weight in the global financial governance hierarchy.

**KEYWORDS:** global financial governance, hierarchical structure, networked governance, financial diplomacy