

Abstract

Power Politics and US–China Conflict: Its Structural Connection to the Korean Peninsula

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Since the beginning of the modern international relations ‘power politics’ has centered on international system, and the current power politics means US-China conflict. Even though it is quite hard to clearly identify when the current US-China conflict had begun, it is said that the global financial crisis in 2008 was a critical moment in terms of the conflict. Because US-China conflict has experienced a certain type of phased developments including ‘even-driven competition’, ‘system-driven competition,’ and the current ‘global standard-driven competition,’ and the Chinese-led system such as BRI, AIIB, SCO, NDB after 2008 have shown a very complicated structure of the two countries’ competition.

US-China conflict faces a serious debate whether its scope reaches to the whole global subjects or not. In the meantime substantial group of scholars insist that it is only significant in terms of the East Asian region, in particular some strategic places such as the Korean Peninsula. Since the North Korean regime justifies its nuclear development for its survival, US-China conflict on the peninsula is more complicated one. The North’s survival strategy by nuclear development associates the continuing engagement of the U.S. and China to the security issues of the Korean

Peninsula. It is assumed that the North believes as long as US and China stay in the peninsula, the strategic circumstance for survival is beneficiary to North Korea. Finally to avoid the ‘nuclear problem reductionism’ all the players including South, North, US, and China need to recognize the importance of diplomatic approaches to handle with the nuclear problem.

Key Words: Modern International Relations, Power Politics, US-China conflict, security of the Korean Peninsula, North Korea nuclear problem, Nuclear problem reductionism

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Abstract

The Analysis of Trump Administration's Trade Policy

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This paper examines Trump administration's trade policy in two aspects. First, whether it has promoted anti liberal international trade order. Second, whether the U.S. is the only country benefited from Trump administration's America first trade policy. The analysis of this paper suggests neither is true. The free trade agreements made by Trump administration show that the trade barriers have become lower than previous era. Also the new trade environment did not selectively favor the U.S.

Key Words: U.S., Trump Administration, Trade Policy, Trade Agreements, Trade Conflict

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Abstract

The U.S. Trump Administration's Indo-Pacific Strategy and Implications for South Korea

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The U.S. Trump administration, which was launched in 2017, has specified its strategy by releasing a series of reports on ‘the Indo-Pacific Strategy’ based on ‘the National Security Strategy’ and ‘the National Defense Strategy’. The Trump administration also plans to create an Indian-Pacific version of NATO by activating QUAD and QUAD Plus.

The Trump administration’s ‘India-Pacific Strategy’ and the QUAD initiative provide some implications for Korea. In other words, competition between the U.S. and China is expanding from the Asia-Pacific region to India and the Pacific Ocean, and China and the U.S. can escalate tension and conflict in India and the Pacific Ocean, and India is emerging as a key country in terms of geography and strategy. In particular, the region is linked to Korea’s ‘New Southern Policy’, which calls for a smart counter-strategy in consideration of national interests.

First of all, South Korea’s cooperation with the U.S.’s ‘Indo-Pacific Strategy’ is expected to help lead the ROK in a direction that is favorable to the ROK in the denuclearization of North Korea and negotiations for the share of defense expenses of the USFK. And we believe that it is necessary to develop the QUAD into a multilateral security cooperation organization

for the Indo-Pacific including China, rather than a multilateral security alliance against China. It is also necessary for Korea to have strategic flexibility in solidarity with China while placing importance on the Korea-U.S. alliance.

Key Words: U.S. Donald Trump Administration, Indo-Pacific Strategy,
Asia-Pacific Rebalancing Strategy, QUAD, QUAD Plus

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Abstract

A Dilemma between Domestic Identity Policies and Diplomatic Strategy: The Case of Modi's Hindu Nationalist Domestic Policy and Its Collision with China's Aggressive Foreign Policy

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The bloody clash between Indian and Chinese soldiers along the frontier in June, 2020, amid the Covid-19 pandemic and the worsening relationships between the US and China, shocked the world. The confrontation resulted in many casualties and caused an anti-China uproar in India. Yet one of the main reasons of the incident was the Indian government's revocation of the Constitution 370, which granted Kashmir a special autonomous status, and the bifurcation of Kashmir by Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh in August 2019. The decision, long demanded by Hindu nationalists, caused an immediate resistance by local population and Modi responded with harsh crackdown. The Modi government also went ahead with the controversial National Registration of Citizenship(NRC), which was intended to strip off citizenship from people in eastern states, mostly muslims, in the name of expelling illegal immigrants from Bangladesh. These brazenly Hindu nationalist and anti-Muslim domestic policies have been widely applauded by Modi supporters but ended up critically damaging India's foreign and security relations with its neighbors. It unnecessarily allowed Chinese intervention and made the relationships between Pakistan and China a lot

closer. India's policy also hurt its longstanding amicable relationships with Bangladesh (and Nepal). Thus the collateral damage on India's diplomatic strategy of Modi's populist domestic policy has been enormous. Given the spread of right wing populism all around the world, scholars need to pay closer attention to the damning effect of a state's domestic policy on foreign policy and security strategy.

Key Words: Modi Foreign Policy, Hindu Nationalism, Indo-China Rivalry,
Kashmir, NRC

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Abstract

Inter-Korean Exchange and Cooperation Projects of the Local Government: Mission and Approaches

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The role of local government is necessary to reestablish inter-korean relations. The Moon Jae-in administration set the “Peace and prosperity” as one of main goals, and give the enough opportunities to local governments regarding autonomous exchanges and cooperation projects. It is true that the willingness of local governments to participate in exchange and cooperation projects during the 7th civil election has increased compared to the past. However, some problems of the past exchange and cooperation project are still being explored. In addition, there is a tendency to pursue exchange and cooperation project with little consideration of regional characteristics and capabilities. The main reason is that local governments are competitively participating in the project with only strong motivation, without specific plans and considerations for the purpose and capabilities. In the future, local governments need to prepare projects that get consensus and support from local communities, and develop their own models. It is important to design plans in consideration of identity, the demand from the partner, and the supply capacity of the local governments. It is necessary to establish governance with metropolitan - provincial governments, local governments -

local councils in order to get lessens from past and positive effects.

Key Words: Local government, North Korea, Inter-Korean Exchange and Cooperation, Unification policy

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