

MULTILATERAL COOPERATION IN ASIA-PACIFIC: THE TIME AND SPACE DIMENSION

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ASIA-PACIFIC: THE INSTITUTIONAL PARADOX

On the one hand – both big and small countries are dissatisfied;

On the other hand – to change them is increasingly difficult.

THE REASON – TO A CONSIDERABLE EXTENT – STEMS FROM THE TIME AND SPACE FACTORS

ECONOMIC REGIONALISM

- ❖ APEC;
- ❖ TRANSPACIFIC PARTNERSHIP;
- ❖ REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE
ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP

APEC: TIME AND SPACE FACTORS

Late 1980s- Mid 1990-s: time and space **played FOR** APEC

- ❖ East Asian economic miracle;
- ❖ Track two process – Pacific Basin Economic Council and Pacific Cooperation Economic Council;
- ❖ The advent of globalization.

APEC-2

Late 1990s – early 2012s – time and space **played AGAINST** APEC.

Shift from globalization to regionalism

APEC – in crisis:

- ❖ Crisis of goals and means;
- ❖ Crisis of adaptability to new circumstances;
- ❖ Crisis of identity.

APEC-3

Solution – two directions:

- ❑ Free Trade Area of Asia-Pacific. **Time and space play AGAINST APEC.**
- ❑ The discourse of connectivity. **TIME AND SPACE PLAY FOR APEC.**

TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP

Time and Space – play **AGAINST** TPP.

Time: no strong institutional and operational background.

Space: no preconditions for further expansion.

RCEP

Time and Space – play **AGAINST** RCEP.

Time: the deadline is 2015.

Space – too diverse to unify terms of cooperation.

SECURITY CHALLENGES

- ❖ The South China Sea issue;
- ❖ The North Korean nuclear and missile developments;
- ❖ Non-traditional security challenges (piracy and maritime robbery).

The SOUTH CHINA SEA ISSUE

Space and time – play for the CONSERVATION of contradictions.

Space:

- ❖ The United States factor - a SHIFT of contradictions;
- ❖ Pan-regional multilateral platforms – no progress;
- ❖ Moving from DOC to COC – in a stalemate;

THE SCS ISSUE - 2

The space factor (cont).

The issue – 3 levels:

1. Sovereignty – 6 participants;
2. Sino-ASEAN level – negotiations about COC;
3. Sino-American level – First and Second island chains vs Air-Sea Battle.

THE SCS ISSUE - 3

The space factor (cont)

At present: an internal imbalance

Contradictions – have shifted to the Sino-American level;

While

Negotiations – are conducted between China and ASEAN.

THE SCS ISSUE - 4

The time factor:

No one is interested in moving from DOC to COC.

- ❖ The US – doesn't want to cross the “red line” in relations with China;
- ❖ China – doesn't want to lose advantages outlined in DOC;
- ❖ ASEAN – doesn't want to demonstrate its internal contradictions.

THE NK NUCLEAR ISSUE

Time and space – play for the CONSERVATION of the issue.

The time factor (institutional dimension):

SPT – were unable to prevent NK from developing its nuclear weapons;

UN Sanctions – didn't influence on NK leadership;

International Atomic Energy Agency (as well as KEDO) – a failure.

THE NK NUCLEAR ISSUE - 2

The space factor:

- ❖ SPT and ARF – lack of coordination of efforts;
- ❖ US-SK pressure on NK – complicated rather than lessened the contradictions.
- ❖ The NK – US talks – no results;

Russia – NK bilateral relations – a possible solution?

Piracy and Maritime Robbery: the Malacca Straits as a Case Point

Space – plays AGAINST the resolution.

❖ Within ARF – impossible. The SCS precedent.

❖ Within EAS or ADMM Plus – hardly possible.

The factor of Internal Imbalance;

❖ Within ReCAAP – only information sharing.

Piracy and Maritime Robbery: The Malacca Straits as a Case Point - 2

The Malacca Straits: Four-Party Patrolling



Piracy and Maritime Robbery: The Malacca Straits as a Case Point-3

Time – suggests a very limited progress.

- ❖ This problem is long-lasting;
- ❖ The internal priorities factor;
- ❖ The foreign assistance factor;

CONCLUSION

Another paradox:

On the one hand – Asia-Pacific is rapidly globalizing. Issues and processes – not only regional, but also GLOBAL dimension.

On the other hand – solutions are shifting to NARROW rather than REGION-WIDE scale.

Institutions – LIMITED effectiveness

AND THE FINAL REMARK:

DEAR FRIENDS, THANK
YOU VERY MUCH!