

# Chinese attitude to Russian and American pivot to Asia–Pacific Region



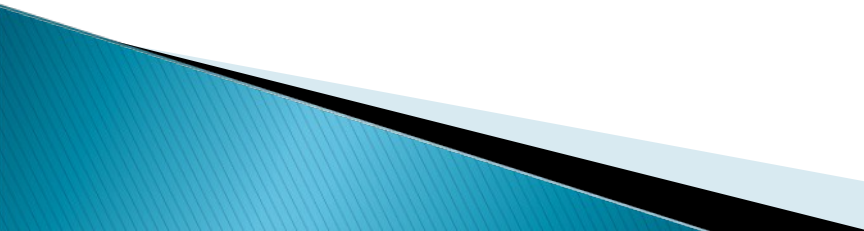
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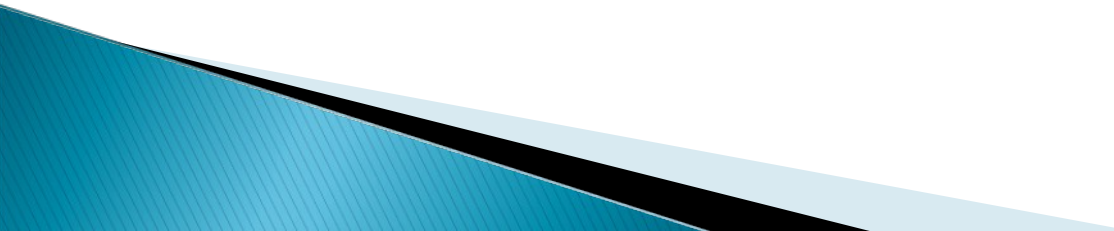
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# Content:

- I. What does pivot to Asia mean for the US and Russia?
  - II. What are the reasons of American & Russian pivot to Asia-Pacific region?
  - III. Chinese perception of new conceptual attitude of the US & Russia in Asia-Pacific
  - IV. How will China respond on it in the near future?
  - V. What are the general prospects of Sino-American relations? Sino-Russian relations?  
Is there an opportunity of US-Russia cooperation in Asia-Pacific?
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# US 'pivot' to Asia

The U.S. pivot to Asia focuses at once on shaping an open, market-driven regional economic order and on ensuring long-term security on the basis of Washington's existing alliance relationships.



# Reasons:

- ▶ China's unprecedented development which could be a threat to the U.S.'s superpower status,
- ▶ and regional stability (a premise shared in Asia),
- ▶ as well as the eagerness to improve America's global image,

were among factors that led to the U.S. decision to shift towards the Asia–Pacific region.

# Key objectives of new US Asian policy

- ❑ strengthening bilateral security alliances
  - ❑ deepening relationships with emerging powers, including with China
  - ❑ engaging with regional multilateral institutions
  - ❑ expanding trade and investment
  - ❑ forging a broad-based military presence
  - ❑ advancing democracy and human rights
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# Russia's rebalance to Asia

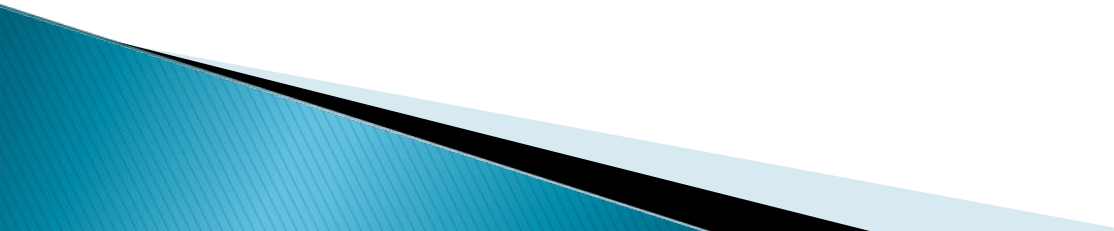
Russia must pursue a more active policy in Asia in order to further its economic development and adapt to the 21st century world

Putin declared a desire “to catch the Chinese wind in the sails of our economy.”

Russia is gradually reorienting itself toward Asia in its development



# Reasons:

- ▶ **Geopolitical** – Asia is a region of 21st century
  - ▶ **Military** –the potential of Asian military strength & regional conflicts
  - ▶ **Economic** – Asia as a source for country development
  - ▶ **Current international environment** – Crisis in the relations between Russia and the global West
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# Key objectives of new RP in APR

## In foreign policy

- ▶ To project its influence
- ▶ To balance its Western and Eastern development vectors of foreign policy
- ▶ Economic reasons

## In internal policy

- ▶ To Promote foreign investment
- ▶ Development of Siberia & Far East
- ▶ New model for the state policy is based on the development of industries that would be oriented to export their products to the Asia-Pacific region



# Pivot's opportunities

The US

Russia

□ **Intense to benefit from Asian economic dynamism**

• economic factor play bigger role

• factor of national security prevails

Because it determines successful future of the whole country, including the development of Siberia & Far East)

# Pivot's challenges

## The US

- ❑ Rise of China (economic & military sphere)
- ❑ Uncertainty about China's long-term intentions is a major concern for both Washington
- ❑ A risk being at a disadvantage if they do not have a say in shaping the rules governing economic activity in the Asia-Pacific.
- ❑ Clash of integration projects (TPP, The Eurasian Union)
- ❑ Balance its partnership with China with its ambitions to play a larger and more independent role in Asia

Overseas basing & 'Pacific power status'

## Russia

Russia does not have an intention to increase its military presence in APR on account of Chinese interests

Russia as a junior partner?

# Chinese vision of US shift

Chinese internal discourse indicates that the United States' Asia–Pacific strategy has two main goals:

- ▶ to exploit and squeeze the region economically by **taking advantage of Asia's improved development** prospects after the global financial crisis
- ▶ to create **balance with China**, which poses a threat to the U.S. as a world superpower

Thus, **the U.S. wants to preserve its superpower status,**

**while China wants to regain it.**

# Chinese response “on practice”

- ▶ two-track diplomacy (soft & hard instruments, regional & bilateral level)

## **On the regional level**

- ▶ the most significant reaction is China’s more assertive approach and engagement in maritime disputes
- ▶ China also demonstrates its military strength

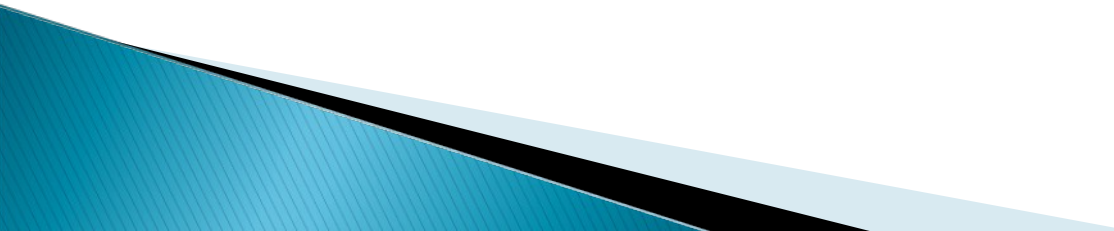
## **In IGO**

- China also tries to to “tie” countries to Beijing and prevent their closer cooperation with the U.S.

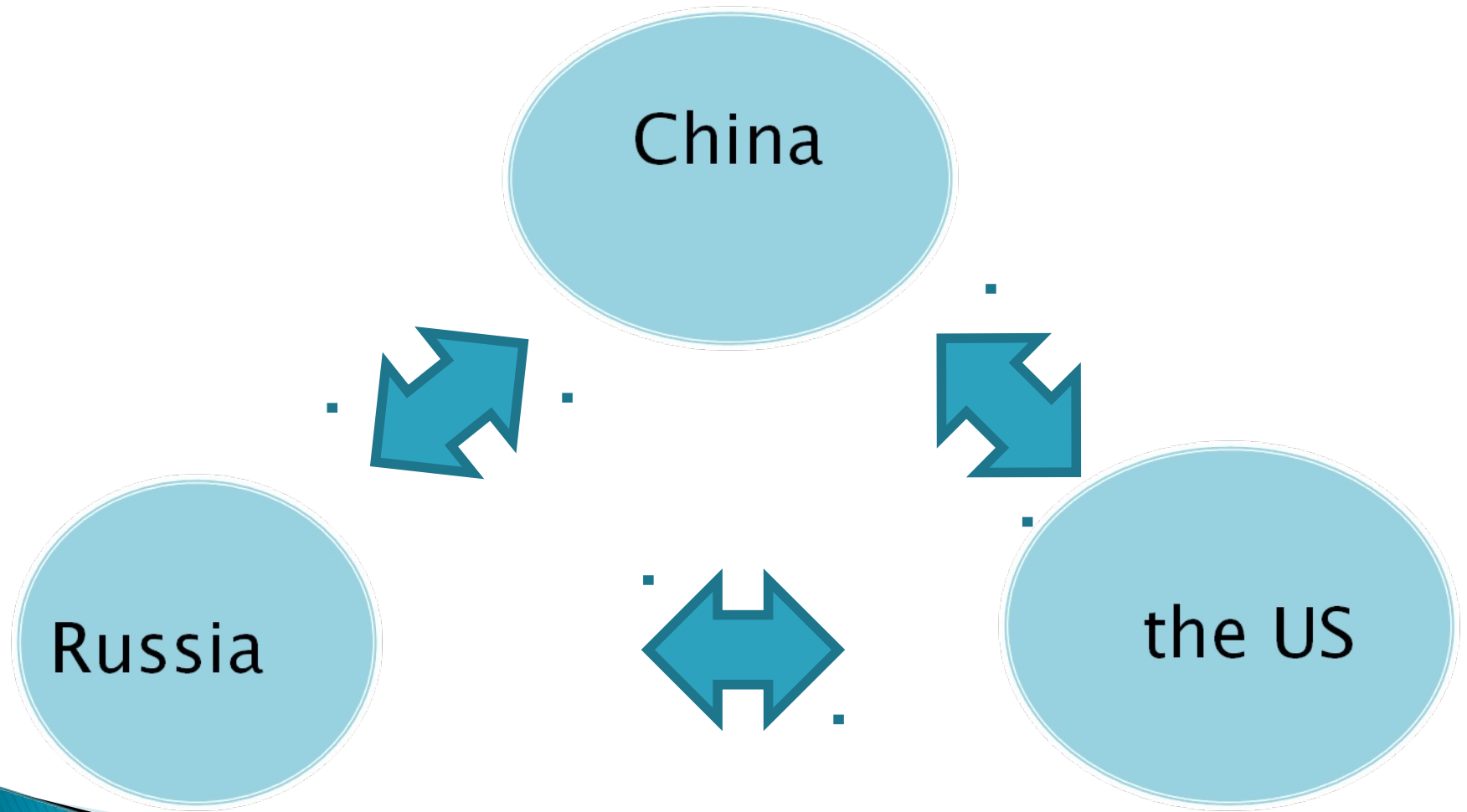
## **Economy**

A concern that the TPP represents a threat to its ambitions for a Beijing-centered regional economic order

# Chinese vision of Russia's Rebalance to Asia

- ▶ The primary goal is to cooperate, not compete, with Beijing
  - ▶ In its relations with Russia, China gives priority to a safe northern border and cooperation in the international arena in forming a new “world and regional order”
  - ▶ An interaction between Russia and China is called upon to counteract the Western domination in the world
  - ▶ Boost economic cooperation
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# Prospects:



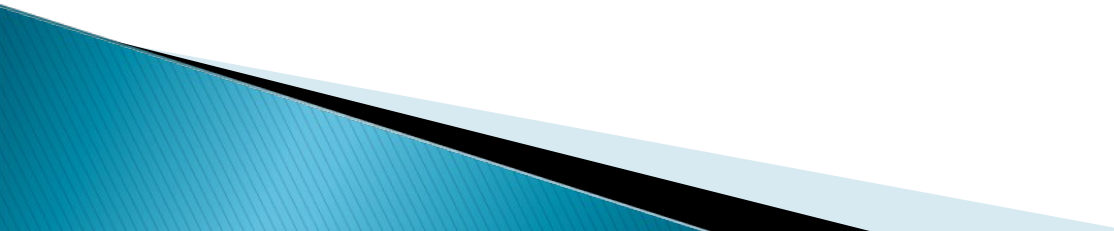
# Sino–American Relations:

- ▶ Relations can be called “neither friends nor enemies,”
- ▶ It seems that potential tensions in the Asia–Pacific region will not be seriously destructive
- ▶ It seems that both Beijing and Washington strive to build a tight net of comprehensive bilateral and multilateral relations with Asian states, thus creating a space for them to choose between the offers of either China or the US
- ▶ Interests of both states could be depicted as **mutually unfavourable** as the importance of Sino-American relations lies mainly in their conflicting interests rather than shared ones, and the conflict decides that the relationship is so significant.”
- ▶ **mutually favourable**, which means that they are convergent and closely interdependent

# Sino-Russian Relations

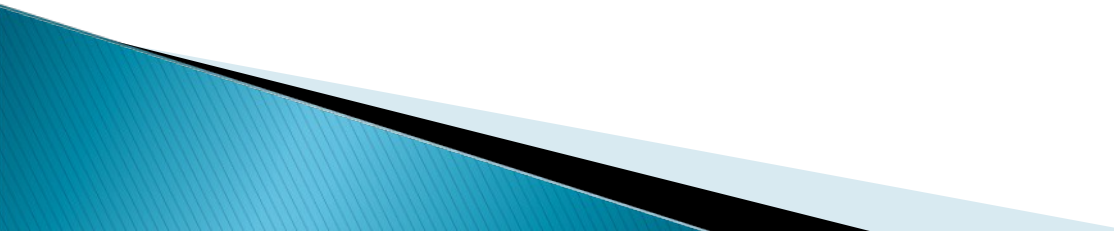
- ▶ The formal alliance between Russia & China seems unlikely

## Still

- ▶ Positive trend despite some contradictions on short & middle term perspective
  - ▶ Economic development (trade oil agreement)
  - ▶ No territorial conflicts
  - ▶ Cooperation in UN SC
  - ▶ Regional security issues
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# US–Russia cooperation in APR:

- ▶ As they shift the focus of their respective global strategies to the East, the US and Russia have an opportunity to create a more prosperous, collaborative, and secure future for Asia.
  - ▶ U.S.-Russia cooperation in Asia and the Pacific requires both sides to make something of a conceptual step
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**Questions are welcome!**





Working Group  
on Great & Emerging Powers  
in Asia-Pacific

Thank you!

