

“The United States Indo-Pacific Strategy: Progress and Prospects Under the Biden Administration”

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April 8, 2021

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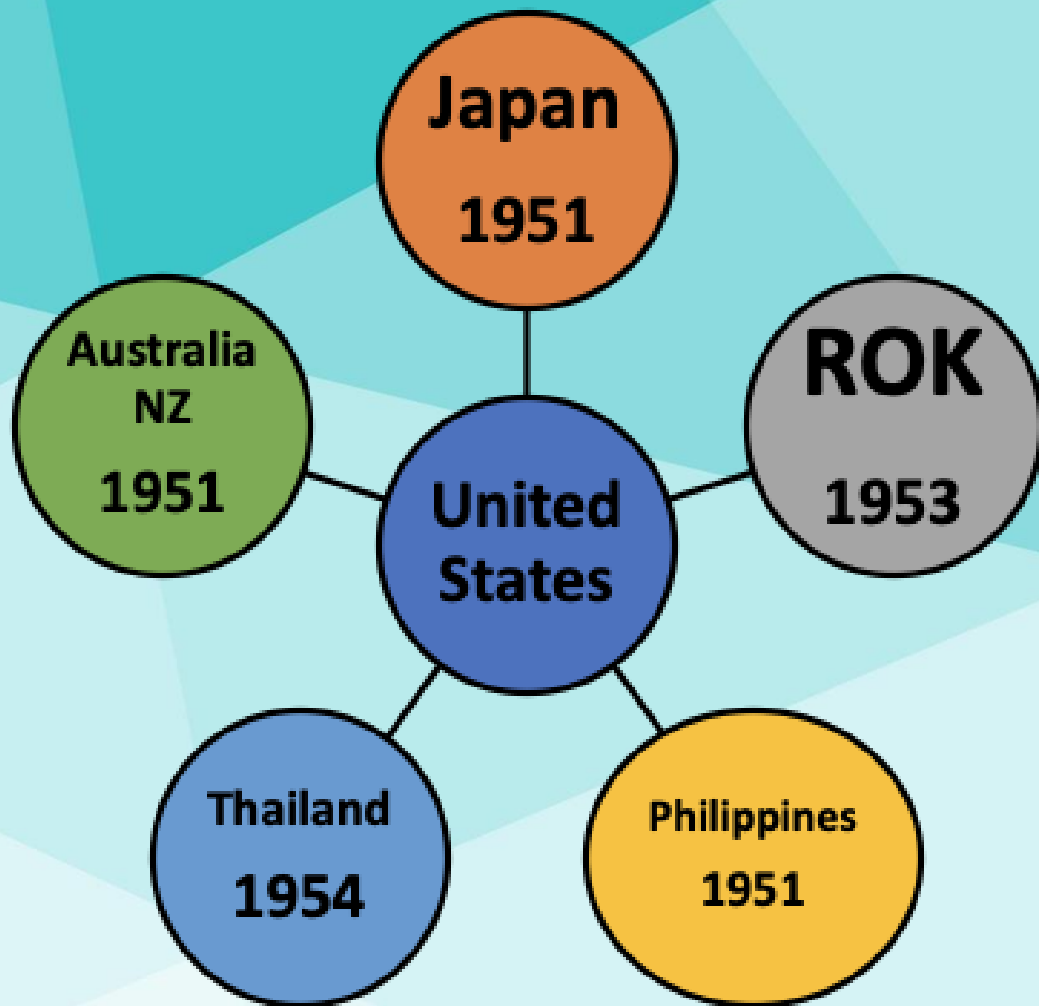
Organization of Presentation:

- US historic engagement in the East Asia and Pacific ---
Background for the Indo Pacific Strategy
- Emergence of Concept of the Indo-Pacific
- President Trump's Principles for the Indo Pacific Strategy
- Lines of Effort under Indo-Pacific Strategy:
 - o Engaging Partners
 - o Enhancing Economic Prosperity
 - o Championing Good Governance
 - o Ensuring Peace and Security
 - o Investing in Human Capital
- Thailand as an Indo-Pacific Partner
- Prospects for the Indo-Pacific Strategy under the Biden Administration

The United States is and remains an Indo-Pacific power.

- Five U.S. states (Alaska, Hawaii, Washington, Oregon, California) have Pacific Coasts.
- All five of our non-NATO Treaty Allies (Japan, Republic of Korea, Thailand, Australia, Philippines) are Indo Pacific Countries.
- In terms of economic growth, the Indo-Pacific region leads the world.
- Annual two-way trade between the U.S. and the Indo-Pacific is almost \$2 trillion per year
- The U.S. is the largest source of Foreign Direct Investment in the Indo-Pacific region.

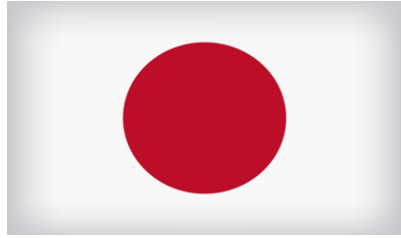




U.S. Engagement in Multilateral Diplomacy

- ASEAN –US Ministerial (1977)
- ASEAN Regional Forum (1994)
- East Asia Summit (1994)
- Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (2007)
- Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (1989)
- Six Party Talks (2003 – 2009)
- US-Mekong Partnership (2020)
- . . . and more





What is the Indo-Pacific?

- A mega-region combining 35 countries in the East Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean regions
- Reflects thinking of players in region:
 - “Confluence of Two Seas” speech by Japanese PM Shinzo Abe, 2007
 - Australia Defense White Paper, 2013
 - Indian PM Modi’s “Act East” Policy, 2014

President Trump's Indo-Pacific Strategy

President's approach for engagement in the Indo-Pacific region

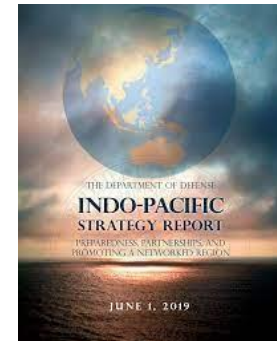
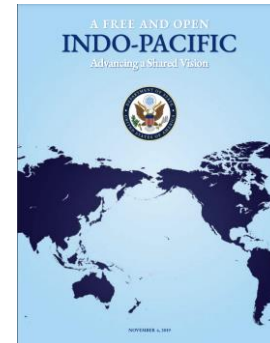
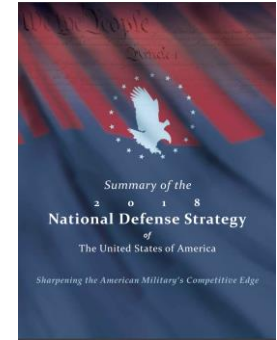
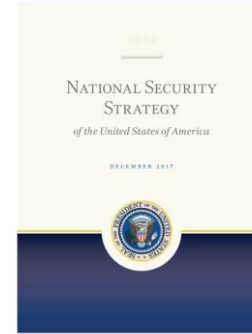
Basic Principles:

- Respect for sovereignty and independence of all nations
- Free, fair, and reciprocal trade
- Peaceful resolution of disputes
- Adherence to international law, including freedom of navigation and overflight



President Trump's Indo Pacific Strategy is based on his overall approach to national security:

- Emphasis on cooperation among free sovereign states
- Acknowledgement of great power competition and threats to international order posed by revisionist powers including Russia and the PRC
- Prioritization of economic security and prosperity
- Willingness to denounce malign behavior on the part of the People's Republic of China



The Indo-Pacific Strategy is not a strategy to contain China.

- We recognize and respect Indo-Pacific countries' interest in constructive relations with China
- We are not asking Indo-Pacific countries to choose between the U.S. and China
- The United States has deep economic ties with China
- The United States recognizes the necessity of cooperation with China on matters of shared interest



Indo Pacific Strategy Line of Effort – Engaging Partners and Regional Institutions

- Multilateral Engagement:
 - o ASEAN is central to the architecture of the region
 - o Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation
 - o Quadrilateral Consultation (USA, Japan, Australia, India)
 - o Support regional initiatives: ACMECS
- Bilateral Partnerships:
 - o Partner with traditional partners Japan, Korea, and Australia in regional development initiatives
 - o Growing Partnership with India.
 - § India is now a Major Defense Partner of the US
 - § US-India Strategic Energy Partnership

Indo Pacific Strategy Line of Effort – Enhancing Economic Prosperity

- Promoting investment and free, fair, reciprocal trade. Promote socially responsible US investment into emerging markets and work with regional governments to offer fair market access for US companies
- Infrastructure: Support development of high quality, financially viable, and socially sustainable.

- § Infrastructure Transaction and Assistance Network (ITAN)

- § Transaction Advisory Fund

- § US International Development Finance Corporation

- § Blue Dot Network – develop shared standards of infrastructure development

Indo Pacific Strategy Line of Effort – Enhancing Economic Prosperity

Cont.

- Energy. Indo-Pacific region is expected to require \$1 trillion in new energy infrastructure by 2040.
 - § Promote investment and provide assistance to affordable, sustainable, and renewable energy in Indo-Pacific
- Digital Economy
 - § Maintain open and interoperable flows of information while protecting economy from cybersecurity threats
 - § Challenge of 5G and “internet of things”
 - § Digital Connectivity and Cybersecurity Partnership

Indo Pacific Strategy Line of Effort – Championing Good Governance

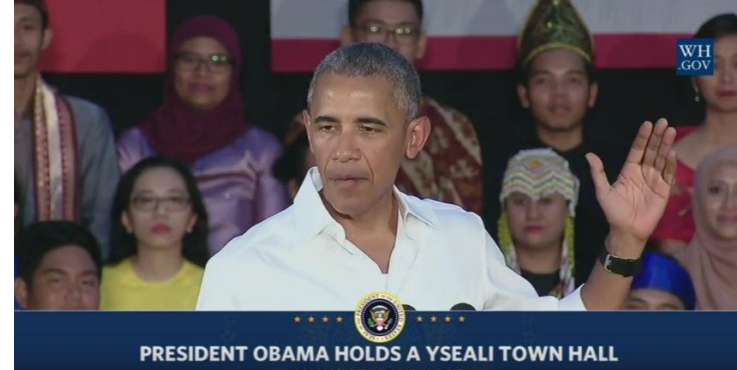
- Support open societies with open markets
- Indo-Pacific Transparency Initiative (2018)
 - o 200 programs totaling \$600 million focusing on anti-corruption and empowering civil society

Indo Pacific Strategy Line of Effort – Ensuring Peace and Security

- Military to military cooperation
- Cooperation in fighting transnational crime
 - Illicit trafficking
 - Countering violent extremism
 - Cybercrime
 - Illegal, unregulated, and unreported fishing
- Environmental challenges
- Maritime domain
 - Urge all claimants in South China Sea to resolve dispute peacefully, without coercion, and in accordance with international law

Indo Pacific Strategy Line of Effort – Investing in Human Capital

- Promote corporate responsibility – work with U.S. companies to invest in local workforce in Indo-Pacific countries where they operate
- Promote exchanges and education in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics).
- Exchange programs:
 - o Fulbright
 - o International Visitor Leadership Program
 - o Peace Corps
 - o Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative



Thailand as an Indo-Pacific Partner

Thailand's strategic position

An enduring treaty alliance

- 130 mil-to-mil engagements per year
- COBRA GOLD
- Utapao Royal Thai Naval Air Station/Sattahip deepwater port
- Support Royal Thai Armed Forces modernization

A leader in ASEAN

- Successful ASEAN Chairmanship 2019
- Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS)



Cobra Gold Military Exercise opening ceremony in Thailand

The Indo Pacific Strategy Under President Biden

Updated Indo-Pacific Strategy is under development.

Updated China Strategy is under development.

Interim National Security Strategic Guidance.

Elements of continuity from President Trump:

- Use of geopolitical concept “Indo-Pacific.”
- Willingness to address malign behavior on the part of PRC.
- Emphasis on regional alliances. “Our greatest asset.”
- Emphasis on preventing adversaries from dominating global commons

The Indo Pacific Strategy Under President Biden

Differences from President Trump:

- Focus on rebuilding America: ending COVID, economic recovery, rebuild infrastructure, promote competitiveness and innovation.
- Promote democracy
- Combat climate change
- Reinvigorate and modernize partnerships and alliances
- Re-engage with international institutions such as United Nations



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