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Strategic Studies Center,
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TOPIC OVERVIEW

SECURITY ARCHITECTURE IN THE INDO-PACIFIC

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Overview

This presentation provides an overview of the current state of the security architecture in the Indo-Pacific region. It first seeks to define the concept of “security architecture”, by looking at the origins of the term in European security debates and its transmission to Asian debates in the mid-2000s. There will also be a brief discussion on why there is no “NATO-in-Asia”. The presentation will analyse three possible sources of security architecture in an Indo-Pacific context: the U.S. and its evolving alliance system, the multiple ASEAN and ASEAN-affiliated organizations, such as ASEAN +3, ARF, ADMM, ADMM-PLUS, and EAS, and China and its newer institutions, such as the SCO, the AIIB, and RCEP.

Objectives

- An understanding of the concept of security architecture in an Indo-Pacific context.
- An understanding of why the U.S. chose to create a bilateral – rather than multilateral – alliance system in the Asia Pacific region.
- An understanding of the role that ASEAN-affiliated institutions play in security architecture.
- An overview of Chinese efforts at institution-building and a discussion of whether or not these can be seen as efforts to build security architecture.

Recommended Readings

Can China Reshape Asia’s Security Architecture? *The Diplomat*, <https://thediplomat.com/2016/10/can-china-shape-asias-security-architecture/>

Five factors will decide the survival of the US-led alliances system, *The Interpreter*, <https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/five-factors-will-decide-survival-us-led-alliance-system>

Building Institutional Coherence in Asia’s Security Architecture, RSIS (2009), full report, found at: https://www.rsis.edu.sg/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/ER091125_Regional_Security_Cooperation_2009.pdf