

# 國際安全研究

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# 国际安全研究

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## Abstracts

### 3 Plato and Historical Origins of the Grand Strategy

SU Jingxiang

**【Abstract】** Grand Strategy is not a concept that can be strictly limited; however, it is the advanced form of political struggle in human society, and any non-military means on the state-level can be included in the scope of Grand Strategy. Whether in China or in the West, we can find some major sources of strategic thinking from history. Plato was an important starting point for Grand Strategy; he was not only the greatest philosopher and strategist in world history, but also the political leader of a Mediterranean humanist group in his time. Plato founded his own epistemological framework of Grand Strategy for humanism, and tested it through practical philosophy. Plato revealed that the human history is in effect the development of rationality and rationality is the source of survival, progress, culture, civilization for people and society. Meanwhile, human history is also a history of anti-rationality, and the struggle between rational and irrational is the major theme of world history. Plato founded Athens Academy as a training base for young political leaders, and trained many outstanding humanist politicians. After Plato's death, the Macedonian king Alexander the Great made the Persian Expedition under the guidance of the Athens Academy, according to Plato's Republic ideals. He implemented the Grand Strategy of humanism, and has made great achievements unprecedented in history. Grand Strategy is always accompanied by Counter-Strategy. In the era of Grand Strategy like today, it is of more significance than ever to study and understand Grand Strategy properly.

**【Key Words】** Plato, Grand Strategy, Counter-Strategy, Alexander the Great, Aristotle

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### 27 The Role of“Strategic Core Force” in the Shift of American Foreign Policy

ZHAO Quansheng

**【Abstract】** This paper analyzes the presence of “strategic core force” in the U.S. foreign policy-making system since the end of the Cold War and the significant role it has played in the transformation of foreign policies towards the Asia-Pacific region. During this critical strategic shift, the most notable phenomenon was the role played by the so-called “Troika”, which consisted of three prestigious professors of Harvard University. The “strategic core force” succeeded in stopping Japan from drifting away from the United States, strengthening the US-Japan strategic

relationship, and reemphasizing the United States' leadership in the region. This paper also analyzes the triangular relationship among China, the United States, and Japan, and the situation in the Asia-Pacific region. It stresses the significant role of the "strategic core force" in international relations and foreign policy making. Such policy shift builds up a solid foundation for Obama's "pivot to Asia" strategy. Therefore, the critical role played by this "strategic core force" should be studied by relevant scholars and policy makers who are concerned about U.S. foreign policy and international relations in the Asia-Pacific region.

【Key Words】 strategic core force, "Troika", shift of U.S. foreign policy, U.S.-Japan Alliance, China-US-Japan Triangular Relations

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#### **44 The International Environment and Strategic Responses for China's Financial Rise**

Li Wei

【Abstract】 The rapid rise of the emerging nations and the eruption of global financial crisis are considered as two kinds of forces to promote significant transformation of the international financial system. It has played an important role in the following four aspects: the replacement of international financial governance mechanism, the diversification of international financial actors, the change of the trend of international capital flows and international monetary structure. At the same time, China is gradually stepping into a new and key period in terms of financial development. During the process of international financial order restructuring, China should defend its growing international financial interests through international financial diplomacy and domestic institutional reforms, namely, supporting G20, reforming the existing international financial institutions, anti-financial nationalism, speeding up its financial openness, enhancing Renminbi's international status, etc.

【Key Words】 the transformation of international financial system, China's financial rise, China's financial diplomacy, global financial governance, China's financial security

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#### **64 China's Peripheral Security Environment: Analytical Framework, Indicator System and Evaluation**

ZHONG Feiteng

【Abstract】 Since the end of the Cold War, the West and China have had a diverging interpretation of "security environment". China tends to define security from the perspective of development, while the West concerns external threat to security. In Chinese circumstances, the understanding of security environment has evolved from simply military to a more comprehensive one covering military, politics, economics and public opinions. This article develops a theoretical framework to analyze China's peripheral security environment in the new era, and constructs an indicator system to evaluate it. The indicator system consists of political security environment,

military security environment, development security environment, public opinion security environment, and China's periphery strategy, drawing upon theories of realism, liberal institutionalism and constructivism. Furthermore, this article analyzes indicators through dimensionless methods based on databases of the World Bank, the "Foreign Relations" database of Institute of Modern International Relations at Tsinghua University, and the People's Daily, and compares the three peripheral security environment scenarios. The result shows that in general sense, China's peripheral security environment has improved over the past decades. However, the situations after global financial crisis in 2008 have diverged, and different theoretical perspectives provide very different images. It seems that China has entered a very different environment, and for future stable security environment, China needs to cooperate with neighboring countries.

【Key Words】 peripheral environment, evaluation of security environment, analytical framework, indicator system

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### **83 China's Role in International Security: Between Keeping a Low Profile and Playing a Certain Role**

XU Jin

【Abstract】 The international financial crisis in 2008 did not inflict heavy losses to Chinese economy, but made China rise rapidly. However, China has faced a more complex international environment than before, with emerging security problems and increasing security pressures. The attitude and policy adopted by China subject to the nature of the security problems. According to seriousness and urgency, they can be divided into four categories: high seriousness+high urgency, high seriousness+low urgency, low seriousness+high urgency, and low seriousness+low urgency. China should seek a new equilibrium between keeping a low profile and playing a certain role, and play a proper role in reforming international institutions that is consistent with its global status. China should adjust its foreign principles and propose reforms of international institutions to achieve a stable international order. After the 18th national conference of CCP and the new leadership of the party, the window of opportunity is open for China to adjust its foreign policy. China's diplomacy should keep up with the times, adjust those policies and principles unmatched with China's power status and international environment, and provide more "public goods" in the field of international security.

【Key Words】 seriousness, urgency, keep low profile, security problems

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### **103 Why Shanghai Cooperation Organization can't Support China's Perimeter Security Strategy in the Northwest**

LI Xing, NIU Yichen

【Abstract】 At present, the Northwest perimeter security situation has been the practical basis of formulating perimeter security strategy in this region. Currently,

the surrounding areas in Northwest China is becoming more and more important in the international political arena and generalizes extensive and profound impact on China. Since the SCO was established, it has played a positive role in promoting regional cooperation and development of member states; however, it also has certain limitations. To some extent, the establishment and development of SCO have met with the needs of the Northwest perimeter security strategy, and it can be used as a supporting platform for the northwest perimeter security strategy. However, due to the status of SCO and the security situation in the Northwest it should not rely on SCO alone.

**【Key Words】** Northwest perimeter security, SCO, China's perimeter strategy, Russia and Central Asia

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## 119 **Political Factors in the International Oil Benchmark Spread**

LIU Yue

**【Abstract】** International oil pricing has always been a key factor in national economy and even in national energy security, and it can be transformed into a political issue. According to the world's two most important oil benchmarks, WTI and Brent, the price difference from a historical point of view has been basically flattening. The phenomenon that the WTI and Brent crude oil prices spread peak lasted for a long time since 2010, shows a fundamental change in the relationship between WTI and Brent. Given the four spreads of WTI and Brent, based on historical and layer-by-layer analysis, the author argues that political factors can influence international oil pricing. From the Chinese perspective, the spread is a double-edged sword. On the one hand, the United States takes the advantage of low oil prices to lower manufacturing cost while China's manufacturing industries are in relative disadvantage; On the other hand, the US underestimation of oil prices will make other oil-producing countries more willing to cooperate with China, and the falling influence of WTI provides a larger space for China in the international oil pricing system.

**【Key Words】** oil benchmark; oil pricing system; energy security

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## 135 **Layers and Varieties of Asymmetry in Qing Asia**

Brantly Womack

**【Abstract】** The uneven ground of asymmetric relationships creates differences in perspective between the larger and smaller sides that shape the interaction. Either side can attempt to "resolve" an asymmetric relationship—the larger side may try to dominate, the smaller side may challenge—but most asymmetric relationships, most of the time, remain stable. They are managed through interaction. Asian asymmetric relationships are particularly interesting because the centrality of China in terms of population and productivity created a situation in which its external relationships

were typically asymmetric, and because of its scale the relationships between center and localities also had asymmetric characteristics. By the time of the Qing, Asia was thoroughly habituated to asymmetric relationships. There are three criteria for asymmetric relationships: significant differences in capacities, non-transposable roles, inability to eliminate partners. The fabric of Qing's traditional asymmetry was destroyed largely by domestic reasons and the increasingly intrusive presence of Western imperialism. In the current era of global economic uncertainty, China's "peaceful leap forward" raises the question of the relevance to its new status of China's traditional habits of governance and diplomacy.

【Key Words】 asymmetry, Qing China, tribute system, basic characteristic, peaceful leap forward

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## 145 **the Ancient East Asian Order under the Tribute System: the Inherent Logic of Formation and Maintenance**

WANG Cungang, LIU Han

【Abstract】 The formation and maintenance of ancient East Asian order was directly related to the tribute system of a long history. Thus, to effectively reveal the inherent logic of ancient East Asian order, it is necessary to critically refer to the analytical methods of the English School characterized by historicism, and to discuss the operational mechanism and inner nature of tribute system. By a brief historical review, the research of the long-term tributary relationships between China and Korea before Qing Dynasty suggested that tribute system was essentially a special international system dominated by China, which was based on the unique Chinese culture, generally approved and actively involved by numerous neighboring regimes. For China, its external demands were subject to other regimes' acknowledgment of its unrivaled position and obedience to relevant systems due to completely independent political system, self-sufficient economic structure and hierarchical view of the world. For neighboring regimes, only when they established tributary relationships with powerful China could they be guaranteed legitimacy and safety and obtain opportunities to trade with China for the purpose of survival and development. Therefore, under the premise that there is no cultural consensus, the formation of certain functional international institution can be facilitated if the regional power plays a dominant role; furthermore, regional orders can also be maintained and cultural identity be enhanced in reverse through associations. This conclusion corrects English School's viewpoints on the relationships between common culture and international institution.

【Key Words】 East Asian Order, Tribute System, English School, common culture, international institution

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