



CHINA INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

中国国际问题研究

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**The Transformation of
China-India Relations and
the Way Forward**

Lan Jianxue

**Innovation and Improvement
of International Economic
and Trade Rules for the Belt
and Road Initiative**

Kong Qingjiang

**Promoting Independent
Development: China's
Governance Assistance to
Africa under the Global
Civilization Initiative**

Song Wei

**Riding on the
Momentum:
China's Role in
the Resumption
of Saudi-Iran
Diplomatic
Relations**

Niu Xinchun & Li Shaoxian



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5 Riding on the Momentum: China's Role in the Resumption of Saudi-Iran Diplomatic Relations

Niu Xinchun & Li Shaoxian

The Saudi-Iran diplomatic rapprochement resulted from the interplay of several favorable factors and is expected to set off a series of positive developments that might de-escalate many regional hotspot issues. A major contribution to peace in the Middle East, the successful Chinese mediation in the process will incentivize China to play a more proactive role in the Middle East, help peace and stability in the region, and usher in a new era of Chinese Middle East diplomacy.

29 The Transformation of China-India Relations and the Way Forward

Lan Jianxue

China-India relations have entered a new phase of low-level turbulence with frequent frictions after the Galwan Valley conflict in 2020. India has deviated from its non-aligned diplomacy and joined hands with the United States to contain China based on its multi-alignment strategy. Under a more opportunistic China policy, India has been less willing to cooperate. Given the significant changes in bilateral relations, India and China should adapt to the new normal and explore new ways to get along.

53 China-ASEAN Cooperation on High-Quality BRI: Regional Experience, Order Reconstruction and Strategic Rethinking

Zhang Jie & Liang Hong

After ten years of development, the BRI has achieved remarkable results in Southeast Asia, as shown by deepening economic and trade relations and increasing connectivity between China and regional countries, the innovation in international production capacity cooperation, and the transformation of industrial ecosystem for high-quality development. The experience of China and Southeast Asian countries in jointly building the BRI has demonstration effects and strategic implications for development-oriented regional cooperation and commitment to the regional and global order characterized by cooperation rather than confrontation.

80 Innovation and Improvement of International Economic and Trade Rules for the Belt and Road Initiative

Kong Qingjiang

Given the ill-preparedness of current international economic and trade rules for high-quality Belt and Road development, it is necessary to innovate and improve existing mechanisms and rules with a practice-oriented approach that steers

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cooperation, facilitates exchanges, regulates actions and resolves differences, thus promoting high-quality Belt and Road development with the goal of building an inclusive and comprehensive system of international economic and trade rules.

112 Promoting Independent Development: China's Governance Assistance to Africa under the Global Civilization Initiative

Song Wei

The Global Civilization Initiative respects the development models chosen by different countries, promotes mutual learning among civilizations, and honors people-centred development. China's development assistance to Africa aligns with the core of the Initiative, focusing on improving Africa's independent development capacity. As a development partner with high expectations from African countries, China will continue to adhere to the spirit of the Initiative, exchange governance experience with African countries on an equal basis, and focus more on cultivating the foundation of African governance.

139 The Africa Policy of Japan from the Global South Perspective

Ma Hanzhi

Japan has taken the initiative to achieve its vision of becoming a political power through cooperation with the Global South, including African countries. Strategically, Japan has been enticing African support for its Indo-Pacific vision to expand its strategic space; politically, it has been leveraging African countries to push for reform of the United Nations; economically, it has improved its economic diplomacy towards Africa. Japan's Africa policy is intended to squeeze the scope of China-Africa cooperation, but there are limitations that will prevent the country from becoming a true partner of Africa.

163 The Modi Administration's Africa Policy under the Framework of the Indo-Pacific Strategy

Xu Guoqing

Under the Indo-Pacific strategy adopted by the Modi administration, India has bolstered its cooperation in many areas with countries in the region and adopted new perspectives and orientations in its Africa policy. This article explores India's Africa policy and its emerging trends based on studying the Indian perspective of Indo-Pacific strategy and Africa's unique value and significance in the Indian Indo-Pacific framework, aiming to provide a more comprehensive insight into India's overall Indo-Pacific strategy.

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CIIS President Attends the Asia-Pacific Roundtable in Kuala Lumpur

From August 9 to 10, CIIS President Xu Bu attended the 36th Asia-Pacific Roundtable (APR) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim delivered a keynote address for the event on the morning of August 10.

Themed “An Age of Strategic Uncertainty,” this year’s APR witnessed the presence of more than 380 delegates of various backgrounds from over 20 countries of the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. Officials, experts and scholars from think tanks and universities, and representatives from the business and media sectors discussed topics including China-US relations, Asia-Pacific security and stability, the situation in Southeast Asia, scientific and technological competition, and the South China Sea issue. Xu pointed out in his speech the serious disruptions that unilateralism, protectionism, and hegemonism have posed to Asia-Pacific industrial and supply chains, urging for a renewed focus on economic issues to promote sustainable development of the region.

Convened by the Institute of Strategic & International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia, on behalf of the ASEAN-ISIS network, a network of leading Southeast Asian policy institutes and think tanks, the APR has been held annually since 1987 and is one of the region’s premier Track II gatherings.

