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A Note from the Editor-in-Chief

American Studies with A People's View of History *Wu Baiyi* (9)

FOCAL TOPIC

An Assessment of the Trump Administration in the First

Year *Diao Daming* (11)

The Trump administration in its first year amid controversies brought many changes to the United States and the world. In historical context, though, the Trump administration in the first year was not entirely negative in its performance in government's internal relations, in its relations with the GOP establishment, and in its relationship with public opinion. It differed from normal U. S. presidential politics, which reflects uncertainty within the Trump administration, its dominance within the GOP party, and its maintaining stable minority political support. Representing minorities and aggravating polarization of the Trump administration characteristically highlight the core issue of current American politics, which is that the realigning of American politics cannot effectively respond to the changing public opinion, especially in the age of social media. The trends and problems that the Trump administration has shown are bound to continue in 2018. The possible shift in majority control in both chambers of the U. S. Congress in the upcoming midterm elections could accelerate the reshaping and limiting of the Trump administration.

The U. S. Indo-Pacific Strategy under the Obama Presidency:

An Exploration Based on America's Grand

Strategy *Qiu Chaobing* (37)

The U. S. Indo-Pacific policy is an integral part of America's grand strategy that is essentially comprehensive and global. The U. S. under the Obama presidency did not clearly state its Indo-Pacific strategy, but as economic, political, strategic, and cultural interactions among nations within the Indo-Pacific region increase and as the transformation of security in this region

accelerates, the Indian and the Pacific Oceans are increasingly becoming a single integrated geostrategic and geoeconomic unit. Thus the U. S. strategic perspective has been transformed from the Asia-Pacific into the Indo-Pacific, and the Indo-Pacific as an idea has been incorporated into America's strategic thinking and implementation. This article argues that a proper understanding of the U. S. Indo-Pacific policy requires an examination through the lens of its grand strategy, paying more attention to its multiple goals and to exploring its detailed strategic actions.

The Indo-Pacific Strategy under the Trump

Administration *Xu Jinjin* (70)

The Trump administration released its first National Security Strategy in 2017 which elaborates on the "Indo-Pacific Strategy". It bases that vision on the principles of reciprocity, of rule of law, and of freedom of navigation, with economic security at its heart. In terms of regional security, President Trump rejects nuclear blackmail and terrorism, and defines China as a "strategic competitor". Backed by a U. S. -Japan alliance, U. S. -India ties and the Quad, the Indo-Pacific Strategy is designed to maintain a balance of power in the Indo-Pacific region. From a broader Indo-Pacific perspective, Trump seeks to use regional allies to contain an expanding China and offers an alternative to the Belt and Road Initiative. However, much work still needs to be done as he aims to alter Obama's Asia-Pacific policy.

ARTICALS

The U. S. -ROK Alliance in Adjustment: History of Development,

Strengthening Motivation, and Challenges *Bi Yingda* (83)

The U. S. -ROK Alliance has been steadily strengthened for the sake of Asia-Pacific strategy and international political relations on the Korean peninsula. However, many challenges can undermine this alliance, such as America's contraction strategy and Korea's political and social chaos. Externally, the change of the Sino-U. S. relationship and integrative development of Northeast Asia are significant factors for the alliance. It should still remain stable for a long time in view of the current regional situation. America will allow ROK some independent power while increasing its influence. So more security responsibilities must be assumed by ROK itself. In the long run, ROK will look to expanding its autonomy, which will certainly hurt the alliance. At present, multilateral cooperation has become the trend because of economic globalization in the East Asian region. There

will be more challenges for the bilateral alliance. In the long run, the alliance will certainly be under pressure.

Language Strategy in the United States since the Cold

War Xu Ying (103)

National security has been a top concern of foreign language policy in the United States since the Cold War. Every language strategy in different periods in the U. S. addresses a specific national security issue. For example, the National Defense Education Act of 1958 was a response to the Sputnik crisis in 1957 and the National Security Language Initiative in 2006 was triggered by the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. The launching of these language initiatives has brought about fruitful results in the United States; the federal government expands grants supporting foreign languages; citizens become more aware of the strategic importance of the foreign languages; LCTLs at schools or universities grow more diversified; and the number of critical language talent grows remarkably.

The Rise and Fall of American Railroads and Contributing

Factors Fu Meirong (127)

During the second world industrial revolution, railroads, as a trigger industry, had propelled the United States's rise as the premier industrial country by the end of the 19th century. Today, though the U. S. passenger train service is sluggish when compared with highway and air transportation, its freight railroad operations play a significant role in driving the country's economic growth. Since its inception in 1830, the U. S. railroad industry has fluctuated as a result of the politics and economics of the time. The early period of U. S. railroads witnessed a moderate and effective role of the federal government in supporting railroad construction. By contrast, the interstate highway system, largely as a defense project initiated by President Dwight Eisenhower, was funded totally by the U. S. government, epitomizing its utmost concern about U. S. national security during the Cold War. The limitations on furthering America's high-speed rail plans over the years, particularly during the Obama administration, is ironically a result of its democratic decision making process under the two party system.

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