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Vol. 24 No. 3  
May/June 2014

# Contemporary International Relations

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### International Politics and Security

**Russia-U.S. Rivalry in the Context of Power Imbalance** *Feng Yujun* 1

The proposals to “restart” Russia-U.S. relations are bedeviled by bilateral conflicts over domestic politics, perceptions about political interference, and human rights. Any geopolitical contest in the post-Soviet region or the Middle East creates intense disagreement. Despite disparity in goals, Russia-U.S. relations will soon evolve to a state of “Cold Peace” plus “Cold Cooperation.”

### China and the World

**A Roadmap for Sino-Indian Cooperation in Afghanistan** *Hu Shisheng, Raffaello Pantucci & Ravi Sawhney* 16

In the post-2014 era after the Western withdrawal, China and India have to take more responsibilities in the reconstructions of Afghanistan. In order to make the multi-faceted transition of Afghanistan a successful story, it is imperative for both China and India to undertake more meaningful collaboration and cooperation from now on in Afghanistan. Such moves will not only be conducive in helping the troubled country to become a normal one, but also be conducive in helping the region around to become more stable and development-oriented.

**Bottlenecks in East Asia’s Regional Cooperation** *Han Caizhen & Shi Yinhong* 29

Regional cooperation in East Asia is facing a bottleneck caused by a mismatch between organization size and effectiveness, an imbalance between stakeholders, the contention between “insiders” and “outsiders”—related to big power apprehensions, restricted zones, and growing nationalism. To deal with this bottleneck China should improve peripheral diplomacy and its ties with its neighbors.

**Crisis Public Diplomacy in China** *Huang Zhong & Tang Xiaosong* 38

Due to the current domestic situation and trend of development, China should strive to promote internal harmony and progress, and improve strategic coordination with all major powers and the peripheral countries. It should study seriously the theories and practices of crisis public diplomacy, consolidate fundamental strategic capabilities, and enhance its ability to execute relevant programs.

**Collective Blindness: A Reflection on Predictions by Chinese Academics about the Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan** *Niu Xinchun* 62

After analyzing more than 400 articles about the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the author indicates that a “collective blindness” was inherent in predictions among Chinese academics. Without solid national and field research by qualified researchers using proper methodology, any analysis of a country’s long-term strategy “can only be a castle in the air”. The situation should be remedied in the future to avoid allowing bias to filter out logical conclusions.

**China’s Think Tanks in Global Transition** *Chen Kaimin* 84

To adapt to globalization and technological revolution, China’s think tanks have been pursuing an international presence with remarkable results. However, bottlenecks remains. China’s think tanks must be bold enough to broaden their funding channels, invite international scholars into their ranks, become competitive, and promote independence and neutrality to break the dominance of the West over the discourse and give China a bigger global voice.

**Sino-U.S. Relations**

**Sino-U.S. Drug Control Cooperation: Process, Limits and Strategic Choices** *Zhang Yongan* 102

China and the U.S. have made some progress in dealing with illicit drug threat. Their cooperation, however, has not always been smooth. The two sides need to improve mutual trusts, increase anti-drug law enforcement cooperation and push for an international information sharing system to stop drugs trafficking.

**World Economy**

**Risks and Path Choices of the Tapering of Federal Reserve QE and Its Impact on China** *Sun Lipeng* 113

Sustainable economic recovery in the U.S. has created a favorable environment for the Federal Reserve (Fed)’s tapering policy, but this operation faces many different types of risk. China should seize the current opportunity while the Fed tapers operations to carve out countermeasures in order to withstand economic risk and enhance its capacity to ward off financial shock.



現代國際關係現代國際關係現代國際關係

ISSN 1003-3408  
CN 11-2874/D

ISSN 1003-3408



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