

Geopolitics in North Asia and ASEAN + 3

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Military parade in Russia commemorating the 50th anniversary of winning WWII 2

Summary

1. What is geopolitics?

2. ASEAN

3. ASEAN + 3

4. ASEAN + 3 Summit

5. US and ASEAN 3



Geopolitics

Geopolitics includes all aspects of the social sciences with particular emphasis on political geography, international relations, the territorial aspects of political science and international law.

Is geopolitics still relevant in North Asia?

- ❖ In the North Asia region geopolitics is still relevant.
- ❖ The region remains within a Cold Framework
- ❖ The role of the US as an economic and security stabiliser and 'protector' remains paramount.
- ❖ China and Japan are locked in a regional economic and diplomatic competition.

ASEAN

(The Association of Southeast Asian Nations)



Southeast Asia Map



Ten ASEAN member states

Origins of ASEAN

- ❖ ASEAN was founded in Bangkok in 1967.
- ❖ First members were Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.
- ❖ Main anti-communist countries of southeast Asia



ASEAN's early aims were modest

- ❖ To make permanent the settlement of the conflict between Indonesia and Malaysia.
- ❖ To ensure there were no further serious territorial disputes between members.
- ❖ To make economic development in a peaceful environment the main aim.
- ❖ To reduce and eventually eliminate foreign military bases while remaining pro-Western.



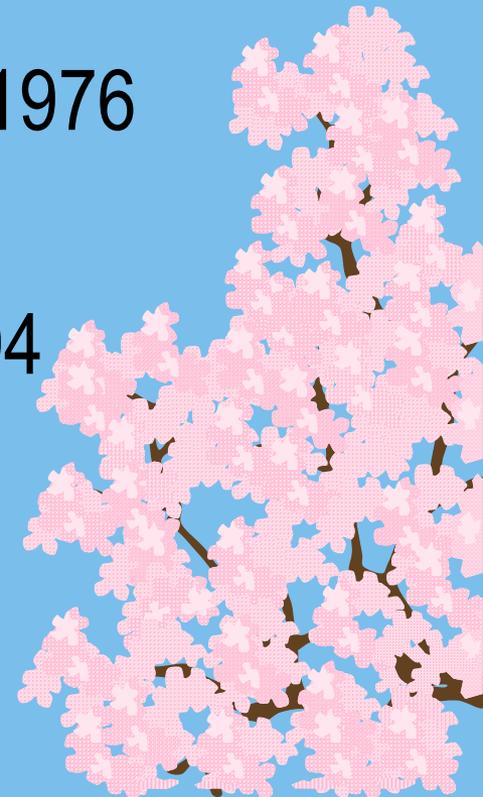
The important principles of ASEAN

- ❖ It was a southeast Asian organisation, so no members from outside.
- ❖ Non-interference in each country's domestic.
- ❖ Emphasis on economic development and dispute resolution.



ASEAN and Asian Security

- ❖ ZOPFAN 1971
 - ❖ Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality
- ❖ Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC) 1976
- ❖ The ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) 1994



ZOPFAN

- ❖ ASEAN responded with its Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality (ZOPFAN) Declaration in 1971 after it was clear that the US would pull out of Vietnam to keep southeast Asia 'free from any form or manner of interference by outside Powers'.
- ❖ This was directed mainly against China and the USSR. It was telling them to stay out of southeast Asia after the US left Vietnam.

Treaty of Amity and Cooperation

The purpose of the Treaty is to promote perpetual peace, everlasting amity and cooperation among the peoples of Southeast Asia

- a. Mutual respect for the independence, sovereignty, equality, territorial integrity and national identity of all nations
- b. The right of every State to lead its national existence free from external interference, subversion or coercion
- c. Non-interference in the internal affairs of one another
- d. Settlement of differences or disputes by peaceful means
- e. Renunciation of the threat or use of force
- f. Effective cooperation among themselves

The ASEAN Regional Forum

- ❖ This was ASEAN's response to the reality that regional problems needed outside assistance to be resolved (the Cambodian Civil War was ended in 1989 by UN intervention led by Australia and Japan).
- ❖ It was a revival of the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO) concept (collective defence Treaty), except that SEATO had been a Cold War alliance and led by the US.
- ❖ The ARF is not a strong military alliance and only involves annual meetings of foreign ministers.
 - ❖ Confidence-building.
 - ❖ Preventive diplomacy.
 - ❖ Development of a conflict resolution capability.
 - ❖ ARF now comprises 27 countries

ASEAN Expansion

- ❖ Brunei joined in 1984
- ❖ Vietnam joined in 1995
- ❖ Laos and Burma in 1997
- ❖ Cambodia in 1989
- ❖ East Timor applied to join in 2006 and probably will be admitted about 2011

The big problem actually has been Burma



Burma issues

1. The Myanmar's domestic politics has impacted the security of ASEAN as a whole.

ASEAN is trying to seek pardon for Myanmar's pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi after a court sentenced her to an additional 18 months of house detention, seek release all political prisoners, hold general elections and foster national reconciliation.

2. Military ties between Myanmar and North Korea

http://news.google.com.au/news?hl=en&rlz=1G1GGLQ_ENAU318&q=ASEAN+summit&lr=&um=1&ie=UTF-8&ei=kDiHSsRdhqyA_nl00YC&sa=X&oi=news_group&ct=title&resnum=1

The US is increasingly concerned that nuclear-armed North Korea is building mysterious military ties with Burma - Burma and North Korea extend to possible nuclear cooperation.

Achievements of ASEAN

- ❖ It did help prevent communism spreading beyond the former French Indo-China after 1975.
 - ❖ It has presided over increasing democratisation in the region.
 - ❖ It has helped establish a loose security regime for the region which has the respect of the great powers.
 - ❖ It has kept the military forces of the great powers out of the.
 - ❖ It has helped establish a sense of southeast Asian identity.
- It has begun the process of economic integration, with moves to a Free Trade Area beginning as early as 1992.

**Regionalism: ASEAN plus 3
(ASEAN, China, Japan, South Korea)**



ASEAN plus 3

- ❖ initially aimed at exploring common interests and identity
- ❖ institutes a collective Asian economic and geopolitical voice for the 10 ASEAN states plus the 3 Northeast Asian states of China, Japan and South Korea
- ❖ weaken the prospects of trans-Pacific cooperation ⇒ inevitably generate opposition and pressure from the United States on regional allies

i.e. Malaysia has strongly supported an Asian community which aims to combine both a resistance to the dominance of Western values and the creation of a mechanism to facilitate regional economic growth. (In 1990, Malaysia proposed an East Asian Economic Grouping (EAEG) designed to be solely Asian

ASEAN + 3 Summit

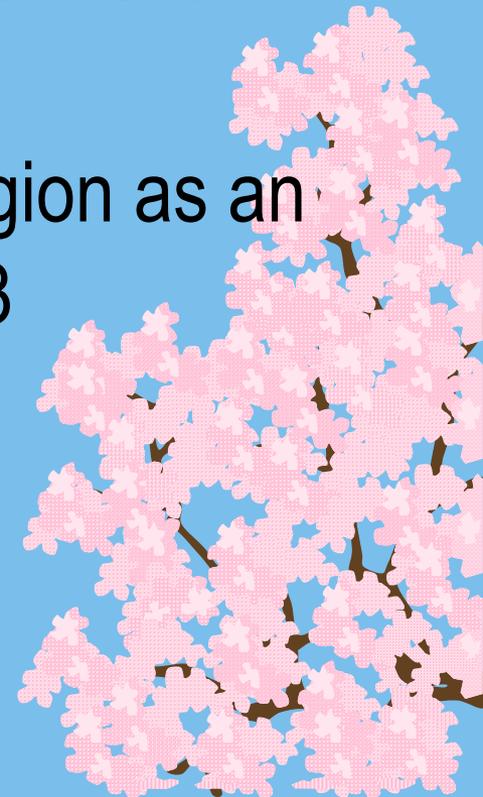
- ❖ The ASEAN + 3 cooperation began in December 1997 with the convening of an informal Summit among the Leaders of ASEAN and their counterparts from East Asia, namely China, Japan and the Republic of Korea (ROK) at the sidelines of the Second ASEAN Informal Summit in Malaysia.
- ❖ The ASEAN + 3 process was institutionalised in 1999.
- ❖ ASEAN + 3 have cooperated in addressing the threat posed by terrorism and other transnational crimes in eight areas (terrorism, illicit drug trafficking, trafficking in persons, sea piracy, arms smuggling, money laundering, international economic crime, and cyber crime)

Japan and ASEAN 1

- ❖ Japan's formal relationship with ASEAN dates back to 1977, when then Prime Minister Fukuda met with ASEAN leaders.
- ❖ Prime Minister Koizumi in 2001 urged greater cooperation on global issues such as counter-terrorism, anti-piracy, environmental protection, and preventing the spread of infectious diseases.
- ❖ ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit was held in Tokyo in 2003 and unveiled the Japan-ASEAN Plan of Action (to address future relations in the fields of economics and finance, politics and security, as well as exchanges and cultural cooperation).
- ❖ In 2004, Japan acceded to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) - a milestone in Japan-ASEAN security relations.
- ❖ In 2004, adopted the ASEAN-Japan Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism.
- ❖ In 2006, Established the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF) to address global issues (terrorism).

Japan and ASEAN 2

- ❖ Japan has not been an active supporter of the new regionalism and that “the challenge for the Japanese government is to counter this drive for regionalism”.
- ❖ Japan possesses an obligation to the region as an advanced country to support ASEAN + 3



China and ASEAN

- ❖ China entered into TAC in 2003.
- ❖ China strongly supports the ASEAN + 3 concept for reasons based on maximising its own economic development and the facilitation of regional integration
- ❖ ASEAN receives benefits from Chinese economic development through regionalism -East Asian states would view China more favourably and with less apprehension

The key to East Asian regionalism is the improvement of relations with Japan ??

Korea and ASEAN

ROK has strengthened its political and security relations with ASEAN ⇒ further contributed to regional peace and stability.

- ❖ Joined ARF in 1994
- ❖ Entered into TAC in 2004.
- ❖ The ASEAN-ROK Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism in 2005 ⇒ strengthened cooperation in combating international terrorism.

ROK is an active supporter for ASEAN + 3

US and ASEAN + 3

- ❖ ASEAN and North Asia are nested within the overall structure of a U.S.-enforced and sustained regional security order since the late 19th century
- ❖ The nontraditional security agenda has demonstrated the limits to ASEAN's regional order maintenance (no ASEAN member would seriously consider the use of military force as a means of solving disputes within the region)



“The ASEAN Way”

(informal, consensus-oriented and non-confrontational diplomacy)

US will remain as a “Hyper Power” in the region?

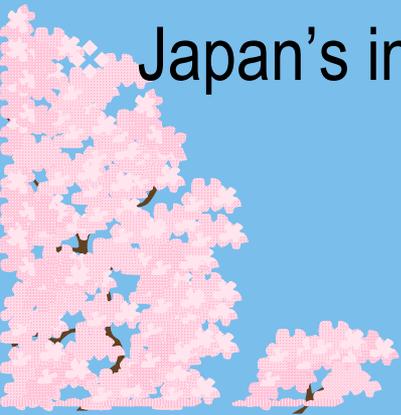
China will seek leadership in the region?

Concluding Comments

Why is this so important?

ASEAN +3 summit and increased institutionalised dialogue between China, Japan and South Korea highlights

- ❖ The importance of geopolitics in the region.
- ❖ An incremental shift towards regional cooperation between the three countries (without a US presence)
- ❖ Further isolation for Taiwan
- ❖ China's leadership aspirations
- ❖ Japan's inability to translate economic power into political clout.



End of Lecture

