SPECIAL FEATURE

5 China and the World Order by ZHENG Yongnian and LIM Wenxin

In 2013, the Chinese leadership announced the One Belt, One Road initiative as a strategic construct of Chinese peripheral influence and regional integration. While China and the United States share many common interests and are highly interdependent, a new world order is viable only with the cooperation of China and the United States.

14 China and the United States: Towards a New Model of Major Power Relations? by HU Weixing

While the Chinese want to provide a new vision and an alternative to the realist discourse of future China-US relations, the Americans believe that Beijing tries to claim a position on par with the United States in world affairs.

24 China and Neighbouring Countries in the South China Sea Dispute: An Update by Katherine TSENG Hui-Yi

The Jokowi administration has adopted a pragmatic attitude towards Sino-Indonesian relations, but remains steadfast against perceived Chinese encroachment in the SCS. Vietnam has utilised the SCS dispute as a hedging tactic to balance its engagements with China and the United States. For China, it is fine-tuning its posture in the SCS.

ESSAYS

30 What is Xi Jinping Made of: Xi in His Own Words by Lance L P GORE

President Xi Jinping remains a mystery to many. Many of his policies as well as his character and personal style can be discerned from his early writings when he was a local Party chief. Xi is neither a conservative ideologue that people in the West dread, nor a liberal reformer that many hoped for.

39 Who are More Nationalistic on the Chinese Internet? by SHAN Wei

A nationalist in China generally supports an authoritarian government, respects national unity and security, endorses state influences in socioeconomic issues and values traditional cultures. Education is negatively related to nationalism. The oldest and youngest cohorts are more nationalistic than those in their middle age.
Trends of Private Consumption in the Restructuring of China’s Economy by CHEN Chien-Hsun

The benefits deriving from rapid economic growth have chiefly accrued to capital returns. Consequently, the decline in the share of Chinese gross domestic product accounted for by labour income has been most pronounced. To sustain growth, China will have to ensure robust consumption.

Market-Supporting Strategies: A Turning Point in China’s Housing Governance by ZHOU Zhihua

Besides market mechanical deficiencies of the growing housing development, local government’s housing-led economic development model and central government’s economic-prioritised housing policy strategy are the roots of its housing problems. The Xi-Li leadership is seemingly taking a step towards market-supporting strategies.

Poverty Reduction in East Asia: A Continuing Development Challenge by John WONG

For East Asia, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore have successfully done away with absolute poverty, with their current focus on relative poverty. China, Malaysia and Thailand have resolved their absolute poverty problem, targeting policies now on certain regions or certain groups. For Indonesia, the Philippines, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam, the main thrust is still on reducing their absolute poverty.

Japan’s Human Security Policy: New Pressures, New Responses by Maria Thaemar Camanag TANÀ

This paper explores the impact of Japan’s new security posture on its human security policy. By looking at external and internal factors and by examining the interaction among different actors at different levels, the paper argues that despite the changes in Japan’s foreign aid and security policies, Japan will continue to pursue human security as a pillar in its foreign policy.

Shinzo Abe’s World War II Statement: Peace, Reflection and Global Contributions by LIM Tai Wei

This paper analyses Abe’s statement from two perspectives: pre-release and post-release. The approach offers an insight into how analysts were wrong/right and how different the Abe statement was from the report released by the Advisory Committee. The paper attempts to offer a balanced view of the statement while recognising the reservations from Japan’s neighbours. Comparisons between the pre-release and post-release phases would be made.