

## **Conflict of interests in the Indo Pacific**

### **Abstract**

Conflict of interests have been flown on the region of Indo-Pacific since centuries ago. Many powerful countries, in their Era, have connected their power with the resources in the scattered islands of this region. One by one occupied its territories, staed there, or some already handed over the independencies to islanders' leaders. Now became a Small island states, and each of these states were a member of the United Nations, with each one of similar one vote in the Assembly and its branch committees.

### **Keyword**

INDO-PACIFIC involvement- economic cooperation- climate changes – defense pact

### **Methods**

The day to day news in social media, mass media, government report, analysis for Indo-Pacific, would be included in this article. Writer want to see the possible conflict resolution instrument would be useable in order to arrange some conflicting interests happended in the region.

### **Result and discussions**

After looking to some data; even though secondary ones, writer would try to seek a suitable theory to explain what is Indo-Pacific strategic would be implemented in the future.

## What is Conflict

- Definition: Disagreement, discord and friction that occur when the actions or beliefs of one or more members of the group are unacceptable to and are resisted by one or more of the other group members
- Types
  - Intergroup conflict involves two or more groups
  - Intragroup conflict occurs within a group

*Jefferson, Paula, Slide Player.com , What is conflict definition : disagreement, discord & friction that....*

### Introduction

USA ' first involvement to create Chinese Yangtze River Patrol in 1854, which ended in 1949, was US naval commitment , the longest one, in American history.

Antipiracy operation in waters from Japan to South China Sea have been included in the U.S.A naval operation in the Indo-Pacific region since the 18 century. (Squadron continued, major actions included expedition to Formosa in the year of 1867, operation in Korea 1871. As the early 19 century ended, US presence in Indo Pacific increased. For example in 1905 the Treaty of Portsmouth that ended war between Japan and Russia, was mediated by President Theodore Roosevelt.

The beginning of the Pacific War that was opened on 8 December 1941 with attack Allied bases from Pearl Harbour to Malaya, Guam fell on 10 December and Wake Island 23 December and Hong Kong and Christmas Island on 1941. Finally, the atomic bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki in early August 1945, plus entry of the Soviet Union into the war compelled Japan's surrender on 15 August 1945, World War II, thus ended with the US in a pivotal position in Asia, which it maintains to this day.

3 decades after Japan's surrender were the decades of conflicts between Communism and the West. Korean War around the 1950's, Vietnam War around the 1970's in Obama administration, US Strategy focus most on Asia. (Kolakowski, Christopher L, *A Short History of US Involvement in the Indo-Pacific*, *Journal of Indo-Pacific Affairs*, Fall 2018, pages 14-20).

The US Indo-Pacific strategy, is primarily a defence policy, illustrates the entanglement of geopolitical goals with goals to “free” and “open” region. Even though nuclear testing still made islanders of the Pacific states traumatized. Many schemes of security pacts were introduced by the US in the region. (Henryk Szadziwski, Finding the Pacific in the Indo-Pacific, 22 March 2022, Asia and The Pacific Policy Society, The Forum, page 1-3)

US's Indo-Pacific strategy caused by : Indo-Pacific as : A. world most populous area, B. world most democracy and Moslem religion beholders, C. Half of global population, D. 9 biggest seaport of the world, E. 9 busiest seaport of the world, F. 60% of global maritime trade transit, G. 1/3 global shipping happening in this region. (The Department of Defense of the USA, INDO-PACIFIC –Strategy Report- Preparedness, partnership & promoting a Networked region, June 1, 2019, pages 1)

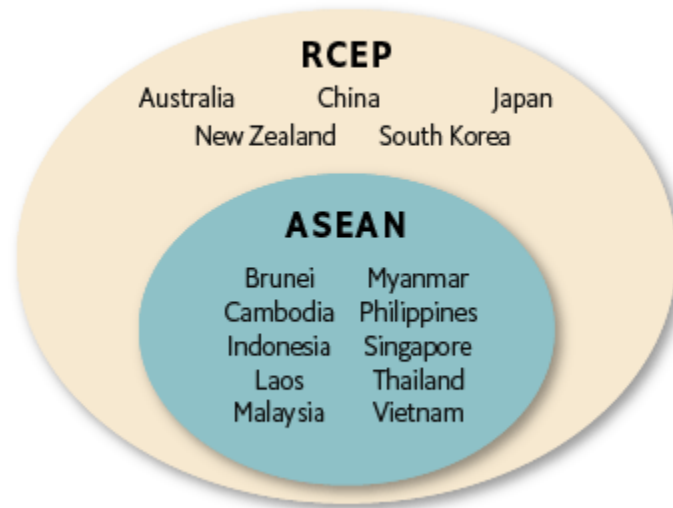
#### **Issues to be brought up from the US's perspectives:**

- A. The Indo-Pacific , in the last 70 years, was the allies and partner of the US. The US vision for an open and free Indo-Pacific encompassed values shared , and upholding mutual respect, responsibility, transparency, and accountability.
- B. US would continue to invest, act and orient itself to ensure that the international order will benefit others and the US.
- C. USA will contribute to investing, cooperating, providing access, and participating a free and open Indo-Pacific and implementing international-based order in the region for ensuring the prosperity of the region and the people. INDO-PACIFIC Report, idem)

#### **Economic cooperation and global issues such as tackling climate change**

Many leaders of the nation believe that global challenges can be resolved only through joint action. This is particularly true when it comes to tackling global warming and adapting to the impacts of climate change. Five of the ten biggest carbon dioxide emitters are coastal states on the Indian and Pacific Oceans. Ministerial forums of European Union for cooperation held on February 2022 talked about the issue of climate change, since it is so important for stability and prosperity of the Europe too. (<https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/regionaleschwerpunkte/asien/baerbock-indopacific/2512714>)

## Asia-Pacific trade groupings



Source: The Economist Intelligence Unit.

### Issues in research:

- A. *Rivalry of the US and EU :U.S. and EU interests in the region largely overlap but do diverge in significant ways. While both Europe and the United States are keen on increasing trade flows and addressing unfair Chinese economic practices, the EU's emphasis on free trade has allowed it to either complete trade agreements or launch new negotiations with regional partners like Australia, Japan, and Singapore. (Brattberg, idem)*
- B. *Risk-based international order :The evolving strategic dynamics in the Indo-Pacific are of paramount importance for the future of the rules-based international order. While the United States is redirecting strategic focus to the region as part of its Free and Open Indo-Pacific strategy, Europe is also stepping up its role—leveraging a strong economic profile, long-standing bilateral ties, and active engagement in various regional multilateral forums. The European Union (EU) and its member states can make distinct contributions to an open, transparent, inclusive, and rules-based regional order, though not necessarily always in lockstep with Washington.*
- C. *French Policies in the Indo-Pacific :The top French priorities in the region are protecting its overseas territories (New Caledonia and French Polynesia in the Pacific Ocean and La Réunion in the Indian Ocean), its extensive exclusive economic zone, and the over 1.6 million overseas French citizens who reside in the region. France always wants to increase its defense export, implementing nuclear proliferation and terrorism, maintaining maritime security and protecting its trade connections, and also upholding the rule based international order in the region. (Brattberg, Erik & Le Corree Philip, The Case for Transatlantic Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific , December 18,2019, PAPER Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*

### D. Priority areas and recommendations

EU's Indo-Pacific is to seeking alternative approach to the Chinese Belt & Road Initiative, even though it is not yet clear and several challenges to be faced :.

- a. Compete with Chinese investment that already well-established in the Pacific,
- b. Existences of other countries' procurement regulation which not suitable with the EU's standards, for example in transportation project of Japan in the region
- c. Conflict interest with Australia's Free Trade Agreement (Zhang, Ganyi, Europe wants to increase its role in transport connectivity, UPPLY.COM, 15 October 2021)

## Theories



*OAS : posted by Khadene Sharpe, 24 April 2018, Lesson Plans-Detail ,pages 1*

**Realistic conflict theory** (initialized **RCT**) is a social psychological model of intergroup conflict.<sup>[3]</sup> The theory explains how intergroup hostility can arise as a result of conflicting goals and competition over limited resources, and it also offers an explanation for the feelings of prejudice and discrimination toward the outgroup that accompany the intergroup hostility.<sup>[1][3][4]</sup> Groups may be in competition for a real or perceived scarcity of resources such as money, political power, military protection, or social status.<sup>(</sup> also known as **realistic group conflict theory** (initialized **RGCT**) (Jackson, Jay W (1993). "Realistic Group Conflict Theory: A Review and Evaluation of the Theoretical and Empirical Literature". *Psychological Record*. **43** (3): 395–415. and Baumeister, R.F. & Vohs, K.D. (2007). "Realistic Group Conflict Theory". *Encyclopedia of Social Psychology*. **2**: 725–726.)

Psychologically talk, Pacific islanders are resentfull in facing with nuclear testings or anything related to nuclear arms. It was not felt by manu other regions, since nuclear bombs that ended second World war were happended in the Pacific waters.

Sometimes, feelings of resentment can arise in the situation that the groups see the competition over resources as having a zero-sums fate, in which only one group is the winner ( got all the resources for their needs ) and the other loses (unable to obtain the limited resource (Jackson Jay W,

idem) According to RCT Theory , positive relations can only be restored if super- ordinate goals are in place.

## Conclusions

US has competitors such as ex-colonial powers in the Indo-Pacific, French, Japan and others. Australia and New Zealand also invested in many sectors in this region. US brought up issues of common security pact to the region, and in these last 2 decades Chinese government also wanted to inject such idea to the Pacific countries with their administration; off-course with economic reasons behind such idea. Seen from conflict resolution and realistic conflict theories' point of view, only super-ordinate goals can be place in the region which could perform such pact or security cooperation, an aim for all; even though it might not be “One suit All” in their future.

## References

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