Security Pact in Indo-Pacific: Resolution of conflict or Power struggle from SWOT analysis?

Abstract :

There are some main threats to security in the regional context that are identical to the catalog based on the guidelines of many contemporary security strategies: A.Possibility of the break of war, B.International terrorism existence, C. Organized crime existence Illegal immigration occurred, D.Social tensions E. Environmental disasters F.Epidemic or pandemic outbreak G.Demographic threats associated with low population growth, H.Aging population.

Background issues and author contributions:

The writer wants to explore SWOT Theory from the idea of a security pact derived from Beijing in the Pacific island countries, even though the data given were a little bit weak and separated, but to trigger the attention of other researchers to look for a conclusion about this matter in the future, it is wise to start such writings.

Introduction

China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi and 20 envoys arrived in the Solomon Islands Thursday 24 May 2022 at the start of an 8-nation tour that comes amid growing concerns about Beijing's economic and military influences in the South Pacific region. Australia's government reacts to counter this move by sending its own Foreign Minister Penny Wong to Fiji to shore up support in the Pacific. *(Analysis from the Associated Press, 30 May 2022)*

Meanwhile, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese told the Australian Broadcasting Corp. "We need to respond to this because this is China seeking to increase its influence in the region of the world where Australia has been the security partner of choice since the Second World War," Chine signed a security pact with Solomon on April 2022, even though rejected the idea to build a military base in the country. *The Solomon Islands and China say there are no plans for a base.* (Kate Lyons, Reuters @ ms Kate Lyons, 30 May 2022)

A draft document obtained by The Associated Press shows that Wang is hoping to strike a deal with 10 small Pacific nations during his visit. The sweeping agreement covers everything from security to fisheries and is seen by one Pacific leader as an attempt by Beijing to wrest control of the region.

Secretary General of PIF, Henry Puna, stated 3 key issues of the discussions with Chinese FM, Wang Yi :

1) Climate Change: Secretary general of Pacific Island Forum (PIF) Henry Puna once said that it is urgent for the Pacific to act for ambitious climate action, "Our forum leaders have identified climate change as the single greatest threat facing our Blue Pacific region."Action to keep our world below 1.5 degrees is vital for the future prosperity and wellbeing of our region. It is not one reserved for China alone, but for all the world's carbon emitters.

2) China tried to rush through a regional security agreement

China brought "Common Development Vision" to the Pacific regional agreement. Henry Puna once said: "We have not made a decision about the security pacts we did not have enough time to look at it."In other words: This is important. Australia and New Zealand are also PIF members, they are also keen to form such a security pact in the region. *We have to keep in mind that among PIF's members are four Pacific nations that recognize Taiwan rather than Beijing*.

3. China warned not to side-step PIF

The only public statement from a Pacific Islands representative who attended the meeting has come from the office of Henry Puna. Chinese warned its counterparts that ignoring the PIF forum would be left them with "anxieties". (Kate Lyons, idem)
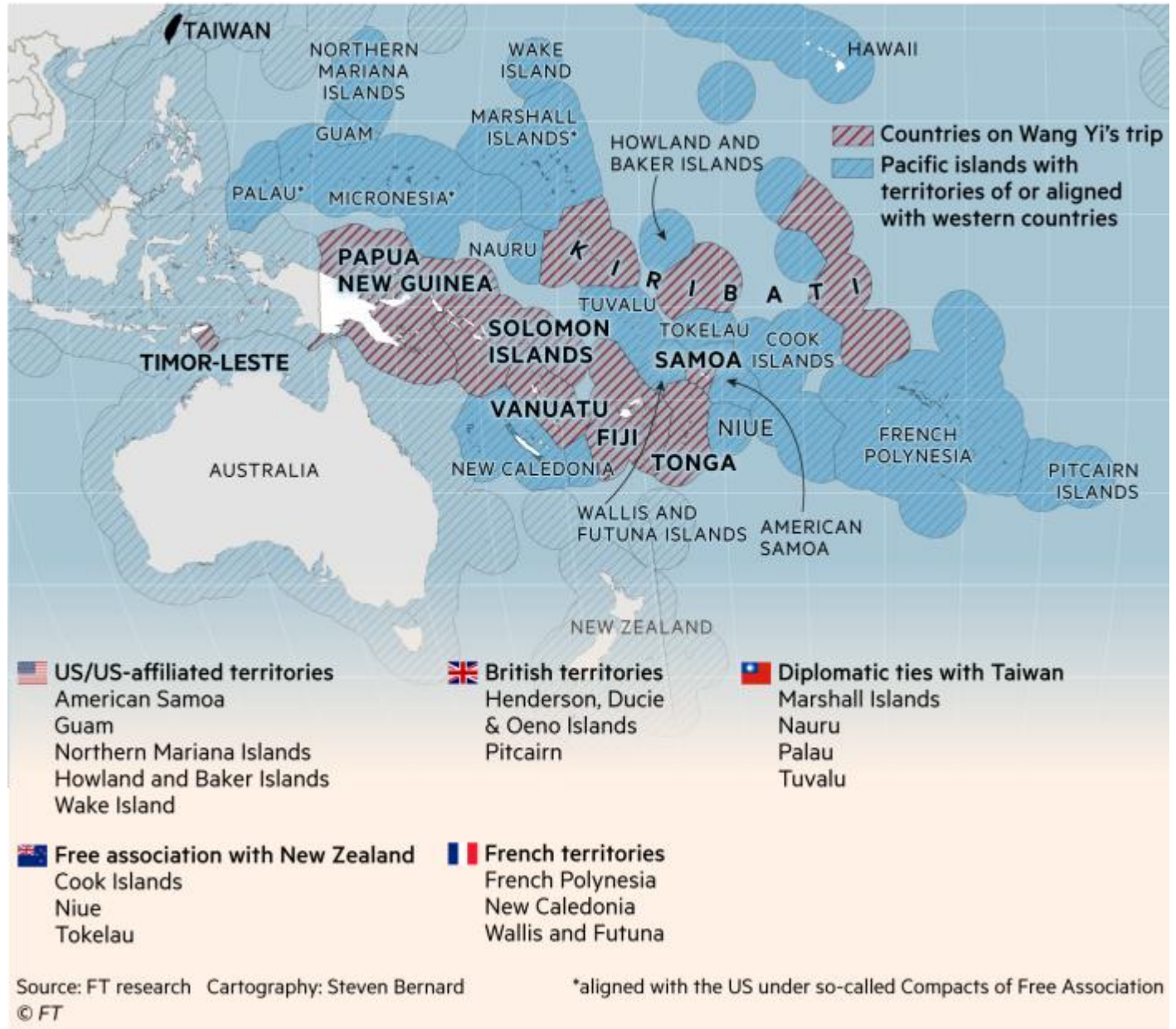
Methods

The day-to-day news in social media, mass media, government reports, and analysis of the Indo-Pacific would be included in this article. The writer wants to see the possible conflict resolution instrument that would be useable to arrange some conflicting interests happening in the region.
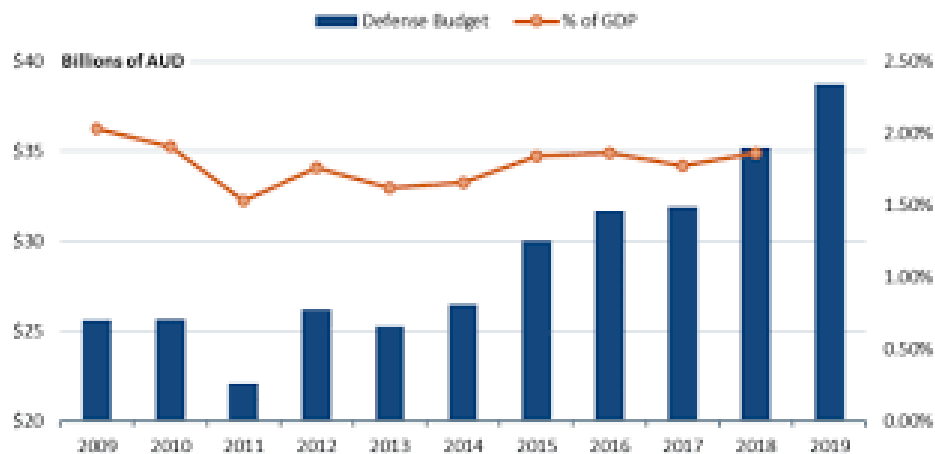
Data Gathering

8 Pacific countries have to choose between 3 offers from the Chinese government: to secure the economic recovery after the covid-19 pandemic, to reassure the progress of destruction done by climate change, or to have a security pact with China, to face the Aukus vision for security of its region?... The answer would be harsh and need a thorough investigation, long discussion to find the same level of understanding between leaders of these countries, and maybe need a long time to be discussed.

AUKUS was formed in September 2021, by the United States, UK, and Australia. The security pact is described by analysis as the most significant security arrangement among the three countries. AUKUS focuses mostly on developing military capabilities and opens the way for Australia to build nuclear-powered submarines. Currently, six countries operate nuclear-powered submarines in the world; Australia and UK are the only nations with which the USA shares nuclear propulsion technology. Poll in 2021 found that 75% of Australians felt China posed a significant threat to Australia's national security and 59% supported the AUKUS agreement. (https://crsreports.congress.gov, May 19, 2022)

Wang Yi's carefully planned tour of the Pacific islands

TAIWAN

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

WAKE ISLAND

HAWAII

MARSHALL ISLANDS*

GUAM

HOWLAND AND BAKER ISLANDS

PALAU*   MICRONESIA*

Countries on Wang Yi's trip

Pacific islands with territories of or aligned with western countries

NAURU

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

K I R I B A T I

TUVALU

SOLOMON ISLANDS

TOKELAU   COOK ISLANDS

SAMOA

TIMOR-LESTE

VANUATU

NIUE

FIJI

FRENCH POLYNESIA

AUSTRALIA

NEW CALEDONIA   **TONGA**

PITCAIRN ISLANDS

WALLIS AND FUTUNA ISLANDS   AMERICAN SAMOA

NEW ZEALAND

US/US-affiliated territories
American Samoa
Guam
Northern Mariana Islands
Howland and Baker Islands
Wake Island

British territories
Henderson, Ducie & Oeno Islands
Pitcairn

Diplomatic ties with Taiwan
Marshall Islands
Nauru
Palau
Tuvalu

Free association with New Zealand
Cook Islands
Niue
Tokelau

French territories
French Polynesia
New Caledonia
Wallis and Futuna

Source: FT research   Cartography: Steven Bernard
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*aligned with the US under so-called Compacts of Free Association

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Budget spent for Pacific defense alliances by the U.S.A

Source: Pacific defense Initiative, Congress Research paper, USA, May 2022

Theory of regional security pact :

Assumptions :

1) There is no fully effective security model in a global character

2) a relatively reliable mechanism of this kind might be seen at regional or sub-regional levels.

The main threats to security in the regional context are identical to the catalog based on the guidelines of many contemporary security strategies:

1. Possibility of the break of a war
2. International terrorism existence
3. Organized crime existence
4. Illegal immigration occurred
5. Social tensions
6. Environmental disasters
7. Epidemic or pandemic outbreak
8. Demographic threats associated with low population growth
9. Aging population

(Kusztal, Alexander, Theoretical Foundations of Regional Security in International Relations-the overview, Journal of Science of the Military Academy and Land Forces, Volume 49 number 1 (183), 2017 p.18-21).

Some of the Regional security pacts in the world :

Security Pact of the world	
2010: Agreement on Strategic Partnership & Mutual Support	Turkey & Azerbaijan
2015 Islamic Military Counter Terrorism	Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Libya,Morroco,Mali,Mauritania,Sudan,Somalia,Chad,Nigeria,NigerUAE,Yemen, Qatar,Bahrain,Turkiye,Pakistan,BangladeshMalaysia,Djibouti,Benin,Jordan,Kuwa it,Lebanon,Maldives, Oman, Palestina, Senegal, Sierra Leonem Togo
2015-2020 US-Afghanistan Strategic Partnership Agreement	USA & Afghanistan
2015 Iran-Iraq Coalition	
2021 AUKUS	U.S.A, UK & Australia
2021 Franco-Greek Defense Agreement	France & Greek

Source: Wikipedia

Identification of problems:

Analysis of SWOT Theory:

	Weakness	Strength
Opportunities	Examines strategies that take advantage of opportunities to avoid weaknesses (WO)	Examines strategies that use strengths to make use of Opportunities (SO)
Threat	Examines strategies that minimize the effect of weaknesses and overcome or avoid threats (WT)	Examines strategies that use strengths to overcome or avoid threats (ST)

Source :

Tanya Sammut-Bonnici and David Galea, SWOT analysis in Wiley Encyclopedia of Management, edited by Prof Sir Cary L.Cooper, 2014

Internal strengths and weaknesses include raw materials, premises, machinery, and equipment. Intangible resources include financing, human resource, brand equity, and reputation (Management theories0

The external analysis is categorized into 3 main areas: competitive areas, environment, and global conditions. (source Tanya Sammut, idem).

Chinese' offers for a security pact must look at all these factors in the Pacific regions since its competitors are also many, such as ex-colonial, Australia and New Zealand and the USA too.

One other Theory of Conflict Resolution

OAS: posted by Khadene Sharpe, 24 April 2018, Lesson Plans-Detail, pages 1
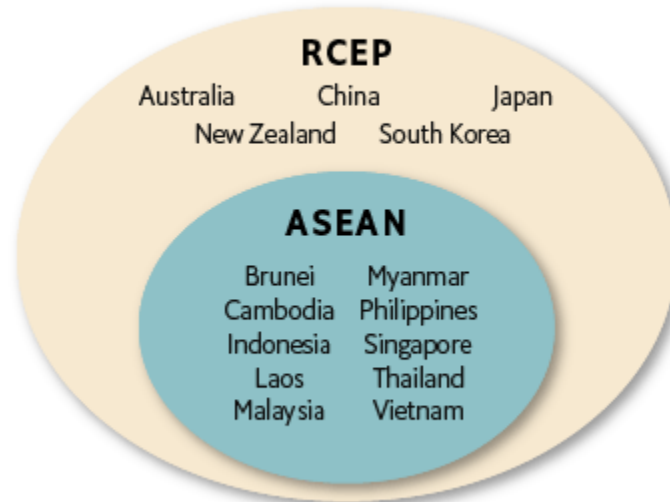
Realistic conflict theory (initialized **RCT** is a <u>social psychological</u> model of <u>intergroup conflict</u>.[3] *The theory explains how intergroup hostility can arise as a result of conflicting goals and competition over limited resources, and it also explains the feelings of <u>prejudice</u> and <u>discrimination</u> toward the <u>outgroup</u> that accompany the intergroup hostility.[1][3][4] Groups may compete for a real or perceived scarcity of resources such as money, political power, military protection, or social status.(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 resentful of facing nuclear testing or anything related to nuclear arms. It was not felt by many other regions, since nuclear bombs that ended the Second World war happened in the Pacific waters.

Sometimes, feelings of resentment can arise in the situation that the groups see the competition over resources as having a <u>zero-sums fate</u>, 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 <u>superordinate goals</u> are in place.

Asia-Pacific trade groupings

RCEP

| Australia | China | Japan |
| New Zealand | South Korea |

ASEAN

Brunei	Myanmar
Cambodia	Philippines
Indonesia	Singapore
Laos	Thailand
Malaysia	Vietnam

Source: The Economist Intelligence Unit.

Some economic cooperation forums also interfered in the power struggle in the Indo-Pacific arena

Discussion

As seen from some data above:

8 Pacific countries have received big aid from Australia and New Zealand, while China, Japan, and ex-colonial powers continue in the second, third, and fourth ranks of the donor aid giver. During the pandemic time of the covid-19 virus, China has engaged deeply in the region to assist with many Maritime Health Ships (March 2020 till June 2022).

From the writer's analysis of SWOT, the Chinese mainland has few competitors in the region (ex colonials power, USA, Taiwan, and off-course other members of the Pacific that also have an ambition for such pacts, such as Australia.

Conclusion

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

Global order has changed after the pandemic COVID-19 and the Ukraine-Rusian war, especially for the need for food security and energy security. Chinese government with a huge number of people has its consideration to extend its power beyond its border and carried on wishful thinking to put its people as its priority.

References

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5.https://academia.edu

6.Diagrams of the Pacific island from SDG's reports

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