

**Committee/Council:** Political Committee

**Issue:** Ensuring a balance of power in Asia-Pacific

**Student Officer:** Constance Tsoutsou

**Position:** Chair

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## Introduction

Throughout the Cold War Era, China was the developing power to stand between the tense relations of the USA and the Soviet Union and it was a point of conflict due to its unwillingness- or maybe indecisiveness- to side with either of the two superpowers. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, China exploited the given opportunity to take the Soviet Union's place, thus it increased its already rapidly increasing economic growth. At the same time, the US understood that there was a more fruitful region than Europe, which had been its main focal point in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century.

This is the reason why it turned to the region known as Asia-Pacific, a group of very promising economies including many of its allies (Australia, Japan, New Zealand) and some rapidly developing nations (China, India). The existence of two major powers with the same interests in the region led to great competition concerning the acquisition of dominance, which is thriving until today. As it is expected, the weaker nations, as well as the region as a whole, were destabilised under these circumstances. With both states claiming dominance over the Asia-Pacific region, the international community tries to find an answer to the following challenging question: Is there a way of power distribution which will lead to peace and prosperity, thus to a balance?

## Definition of Key-Terms

The following definitions are essential for the correct understanding of the issue at hand. Please do not skip this section due to its length.

### System

The term system is used to indicate "an assemblage of units, objects, or parts united by some form of regular interaction". In international relations and especially in the specific topic, units equal regions/states.

## Alliance

According to the Encyclopaedia Britannica, an alliance is “a formal agreement between two or more states for mutual support in case of war.” Powerful countries form alliances with the prospect of dominating their rivals and legitimising their moves, whereas weaker states aim at their strengthening.

## Balance of power

The balance of power theory is a significant concept in the field of international relations which belongs to the wider category of realism and explains the tendencies of states in proportion to the international system. It refers to the military and material capacities of a state or group of states relative to another state or group of states and it is achieved when the potential of the one part of the system is incapable of dominating the rest of the parts. A state can increase its capabilities in order to preserve the equilibrium of the system; however this is not always possible due to apparent reasons connected to its socioeconomic status quo, therefore states often resort to another way of having a balance of power and originate alliances.

More often than not, a balance of power nowadays is achieved through peaceful measures, although war can be a medium to balance the power in cases where a state is threatened by another state which has had an increase in power. In cases of breach of balance, measures, such as enhancement of the military, war compensations, competition or even the creation of “equitable” alliances, are used aiming at the restoration of the equilibrium; these efforts are summed up in the term “balancing”.

The theory distinguishes three types of this phenomenon:

- a) A multipolar distribution of power: An example for this variation of the theory is the international system prior to the 20<sup>th</sup> century, more specifically the composition of Europe after the Congress of Vienna, which proclaimed Russia, Austria-Hungary, Prussia, France and Great Britain as the five superpowers, not only of the continent, but of the entire world. The existence of more than two poles makes independent powers compete for influence and very often leads to conflicts and the formation of new alliances which change the balance. Some scholars argue that in cases of a multipolar distribution in equal terms, the responsibility for balance is constantly transferred from one power to another.

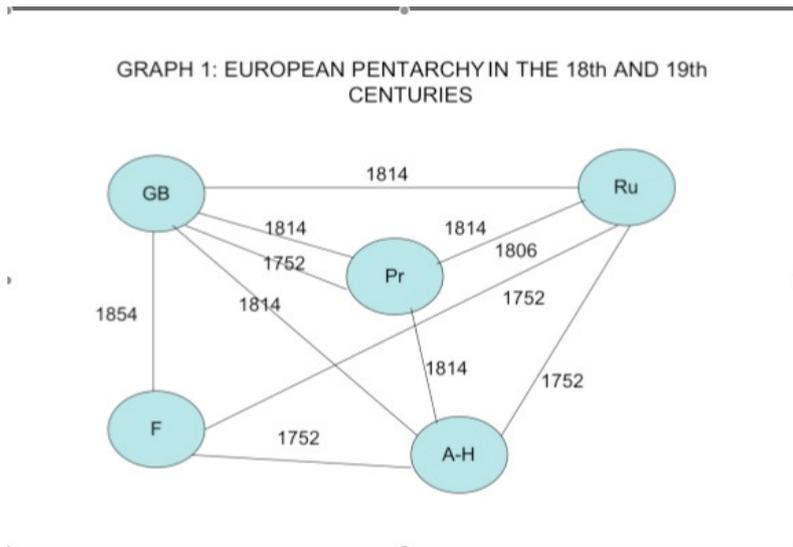


Fig.1: Schematic demonstration of the European multipolar system

- b) A bipolar distribution of power: Typical examples for this structure are the Cold War era and Classical Greece. Concerning the first example, the United States of America and the Soviet Union represented the two poles, whereas the rest of the world sided with one of the two superpowers (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and Warsaw Pact). Concerning the latter one, the cities of Athens and Sparta were hegemonic figures of the Greek system and all other cities had to ally with one of them. These more permanent alliances lead to a lack of freedom in decision-taking and acting by the “minor” states, a fact which ensures a certain stability of the system.



Fig.2: Division of Europe in the Cold War Era

- c) A unipolar distribution of power: It is argued that the current system is a unipolar one (1991-present), because of the rapid dominance of the USA over the planet after the collapse of Soviet Union. Also, the Napoleonic wars can be considered a failed effort to establish a unipolar balance of power in the system of European nations. There is discussion on whether there is a counterweight to unipolar systems, with some experts believing that there is none, thus rendering unipolar systems lasting, and others supporting that there are lighter forms of balancing to be found by the other states.



Fig.3: French claims during the Napoleonic Wars

A balance of power can exist on a global or on a regional scale, depending on which system is taken as the “field of research” each time. A regional balance of power (e.g. the Asia-Pacific balance of power) is highly dependent not only on the states of the region, but also on hegemonic countries not located in the region, should there be any.

Follow [this hyperlink](#) to watch a video explaining the Balance of Power Theory in a simpler manner.

### Asia-Pacific Region

According to a recent United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) report, the region is divided in five sub-regions, each including the following states:

- **East and North-East Asia**

China, Hong Kong (China), Macao (China), Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Republic of Korea, Mongolia

- **South-East Asia**

Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Viet Nam

- **South and South-West Asia**

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Turkey

- **North and Central Asia**

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

- **Pacific**

American Samoa, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, New Caledonia, Niue, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu

The Asia-Pacific Centre for Security Studies (APCSS) has a different listing of the Asia-Pacific countries defined as "countries in the US Pacific Command area of responsibility and other countries that are routinely invited to APCSS courses." Follow [this hyperlink](#) to see the Asia-Pacific states as defined by the APCSS.

The region is organised in various organisations aiming at the optimisation of the security, economy and trade of the involved countries, as will be explained in the "Background Information" section.

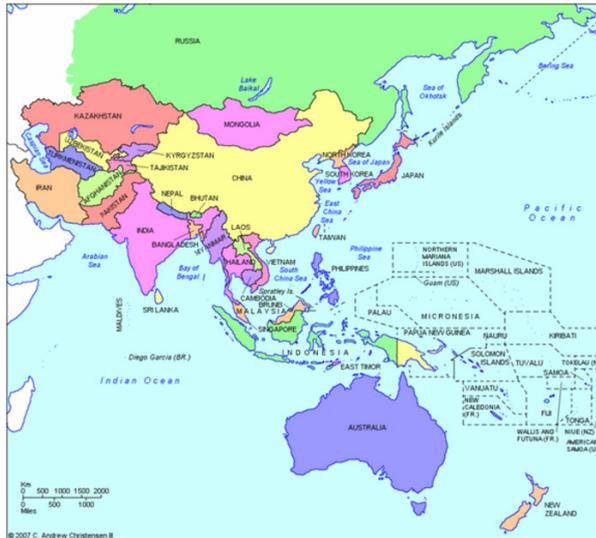


Fig.4: The Asia-Pacific region

### Forward Presence

Forward Presence is a military term to describe a strategy of major powers linked to their minor allies. The US Navy recognises the following four stages to this strategy.

- (a) Prevention: presence in the area at all times
- (b) Deterrence: the process of the regional powers recognising the potential of the present foreign power
- (c) Resolution: direct action in cases whereby the mere presence has not acted as an inhibitory factor, this direct action does not require permission by the other countries involved
- (d) Termination: fighting until the eradication of the crisis, collection of a special premium (in the US) for the services offered to citizens all around the world

### Asymmetric(al) warfare

According to the Encyclopaedia Britannica, asymmetrical warfare is “the unconventional strategies and tactics adopted by a force when the military capabilities of belligerent powers are not simply unequal, but are so significantly different that they cannot make the same sorts of attacks on each other.” Terrorists (eg. Kamikaze, hi-jackers) and their actions fall under the wider

category of asymmetric warfare and so do piracy and the war between a nuclear-armed state and a non-nuclear-armed one.

## Background Information

### How is a balance of power established?

Establishing a balance of power is an act of political will and the capability of doing so depends on many factors. The involved states ought to have the following: a stable political framework, studied policies and, as a result, an entente as far as basic principles are concerned, diplomatic deftness, as the size and capacity of a state does not always define its influence on others, adjustability of alliances, since a balance of power may demand a rearrangement, and a system of coexistence to ensure all aforementioned prerequisites.

### Coexistence

Coexistence can be defined as the debarment of national interests when international stability is at stake, or vice versa, the striving for national interests as long as international stability is not imperiled.

Achieving a system of coexistence demands that major powers interfere with each other only when there are overlapping interests and that all states of the system reach a consensus on the goals of it (this does not mean that their goals as individual states coincide) and on a minimum number of principles. According to well-known rationalist scholars, these are the rules of war, jurisdiction and agreements. The first category provides for the restriction of ferocity, the second one for the stability of possession and the third one for the honesty and honouring of pledges. Goals include the maintenance of the system and the defaultisation of peace in it.

Systems of coexistence are established only in cases of inevitable relations of countries, they depend on the relations of the major powers to each other and a key to them is a modest poise of the states. Coexistence promotes the limitation of crises and wars and is able to stabilize a balance of power by ensuring restricted interaction of the great powers and the prevention-control-resolution of conflicts. A direct link can be found in the opinion of another rationalist scholar believing that the principle rules of coexistence are the right to violence when a power endangers the stability of the system, the realisation that facts can change, not only because of the gradual social

progress, but also because of the formulation of rules, and last but not least the prioritisation of the system stability over commitments of the alliance.

As mentioned in the definition of the term “balance of power” the practical steps to the establishment are either part of a peaceful or of a violent approach. Peaceful approaches can be understood as diplomacy, informal agreements and multilateral treaties or conventions, while violent approaches include all means of war.

### Trade and economy in the Asia-Pacific

It has been claimed that the impulse of Asian-Pacific trade is “dethroning” the Euro-Atlantic region in terms of economy and politics. The countries have strong trade bonds which are institutionalised by the following economic organisations and trade agreements:

- **Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)**

Acting for its members’ economic and sustainable development, APEC was established in 1989 as the idea of a former Australian prime minister. It has 21 Member States, committees with varied purposes and annual leaders’ meetings. 40% of global population and 57% of global economic performance is represented in APEC.



*Fig.5: APEC Member States*

- **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)**

Established in 1967 by the Bangkok Declaration, ASEAN today is comprised of ten Member States (Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam). It does not only contribute to the political and economic development of the Member States and to their peaceful relations, but also pursues their cultural and social welfare. ASEAN entails three Community Councils (Political-Security, Economic, Socio-Cultural), a Coordinating Council (with representation of each member state by its Minister of Foreign Affairs) and an ASEAN Summit. This year's ASEAN Summit is taking place on the 20<sup>th</sup> of August and you can follow [this hyperlink](#) to receive updates.

Since 1992, there is also a trade bloc agreement linked to the Association, called AFTA (ASEAN Free Trade Area), attracting more investors and enabling the developing states to bloom. In 1997 ASEAN underwent the extension of itself by the addition of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea in the so-called ASEAN+3. Since then, ASEAN and ASEAN+3 coexist and ensure the benign relations of the Eastern nations. Relevant to ASEAN is the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) as well, an organisation for better negotiations between the 10 ASEAN States and the 6 Countries with which ASEAN has trade agreements (Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea).



*Fig.6: Map of the ASEAN countries*

- **East Asian Summit (EAS)**

It is an annual summit of the ASEAN+3 and three more powers of the region (Australia, India, New Zealand), as well as of the United States of America and the Russian Federation, discussing the challenges faced and promoting co-operation. The greatest sign of co-operation is the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), a trade agreement organisation consisting of

the ASEAN+3 and the three regional powers mentioned above, which was established after the wish of Japan to extend the ASEAN+3 trade agreement (East Asia Free Trade Agreement (EAFTA)) to an ASEAN+6 trade agreement (Comprehensive Economic Partnership in East Asia (CEPEA)).

- **South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)**

The SAARC is an economic organisation of the following eight countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and to it is linked the South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA), a trade agreement between those eight states.

- **Pacific Islands Forum (PIF)**

This forum consists of the 16 independent island states of the Pacific and has agreed on trade cooperation (South Pacific Regional Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement (SPARTECA)), which has the goal of enhancing the regional economies.

### Security in the Asia-Pacific

The view that Asia-Pacific is overshadowing European military strategies has been also expressed. The geomorphic peculiarity of the Asia-Pacific region calls for special and considered security policies. The main difficulties arising from these policies, as well as the issues in need of special handling, are the following:

- **Sea Lanes of Communication (SLOCs)**

Asia-Pacific would not be able to develop its trade and communication to the rest of the world if it were not for the SLOCs. The four SLOCs to be found in the region are:

- 1) The Strait of Malacca, connecting the Indian Ocean and the South China Sea. Although it is long and narrow, it remains the busiest strait in the world. A key passage is the very narrow Strait of Singapore.
- 2) Lombok, the safest route available and an alternative to the Strait of Malacca. Japan's transportations depend heavily on this SLOC.

- 3) Strait of Sunda, a very shallow and dangerous passage, which is therefore not preferred.
- 4) South China Sea, the largest SLOC. Except for its use as a SLOC, it is home to various island complexes and to petroleum sources. The control of the islands ensures control over the SLOC and therefore it has been a cause of conflict.

Maintaining the security of these SLOCs is a priority for the Asia-Pacific countries, as their economies, their energy supplies (transported to China, Japan and ROK from the Persian Gulf and West Asia) and their relations with the US would be undermined. However, it can be also affected by internal factors of the region, such as ill political relations and territorial and maritime disputes, which are not rare due to the fact that the sovereignty over straits can yield vast profits (related is the South China Sea dispute). Security can be also breached by piracy and maritime terrorism. The latter one is advocated by the fact that South Asian states are home to radical Islamic groups and responsible for its prevention are the states having or claiming rights on the specific international waters. Generally, the issues related to SLOCs can be divided in two sub-categories: military ones (disputes, Chinese interventions in the South China Sea, etc) and non-military ones (oil spills, accidents, etc).

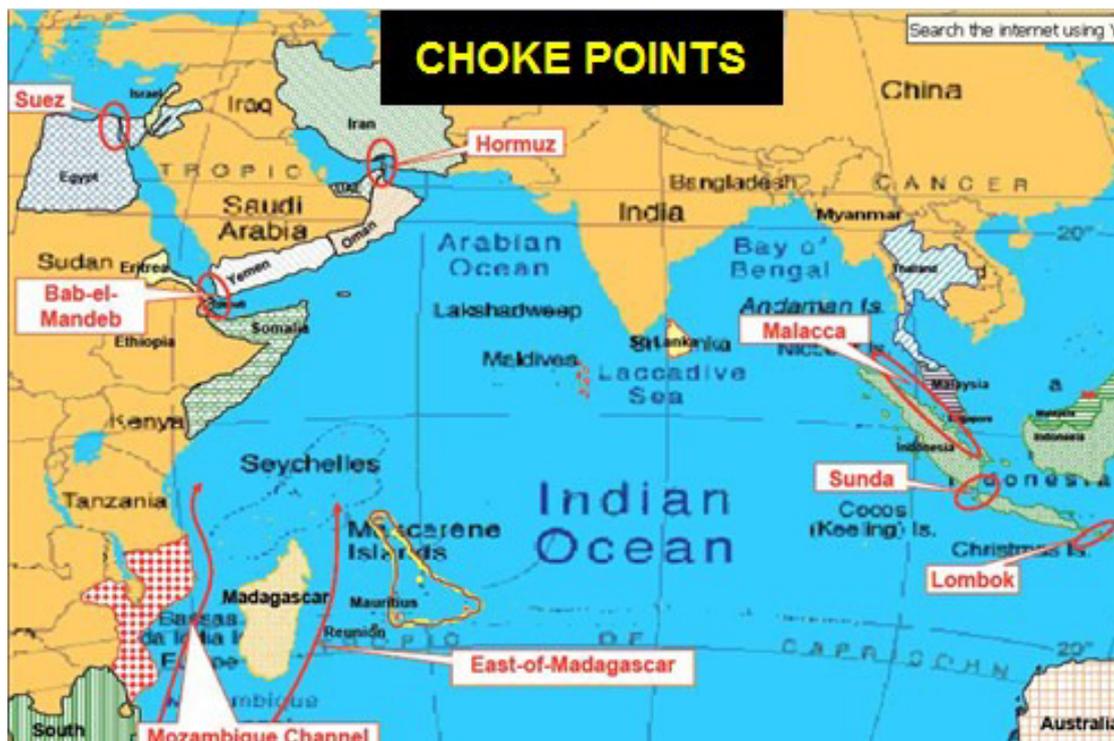


Fig.7: SLOCs of the Indian Ocean

- Regional maritime capacities

The competition and simultaneous cooperation in the region leads to a rapid evolution of the maritime capacities, like the amphibious capabilities that have been acquired in recent years. Some South-Eastern states have created the so-called "Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI)" in their efforts to eradicate proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) in their area and take a further step into peace and stability. Although cooperation in the maritime sector has not been immense, littoral states do cooperate in initiatives like the Prevention of Incidents in High Sea (INCSEA), the combat of WDM and drugs distribution and the guarding of the key sea gate of the Strait of Malacca (MALSINDO). The Navies of the involved states also conduct joint exercises and share intelligence, while there have also been efforts for Confidence-Building Measures (CBM) by the ASEAN Region Forum (ARF), an ASEAN sub-organisation targeting at the regional security by CBMs, preventive diplomacy and transnational dialogue. However, the lack of prevention policies is an issue to be tackled in order to ensure optimised security.

- **International Factors**

The Asia-Pacific region lives in the permanent presence of foreign naval forces (Forward Presence of the US, the UK, France, Russia, Japan and Australia), however not all states agree to these unauthorised visits, especially because many of the foreign warships are nuclear-armed. This is the reason why Bangladesh, Myanmar, China, India, Indonesia, Pakistan and ROK do not let them enter their national borders without prior notification.

The intervention of foreign powers in the region is apparent, since the USA and the Russian Federation try to internationalise the SLOCs with the prospect of conducting some of their global missions, which are related to this area. The alliances to be found in Asia-Pacific are of four kinds: formal mutual defence treaties, geo-strategically linked informal alliances, trade alliances and collective security alliances.

#### Reasons and results of non-existence of a balance of power

The main reason of non-existence of a balance of power in Asia-Pacific is the extremely competitive Sino-US relations. This can be analysed in some arguments, including the different views of the two states on how the region has to be stabilised, the preference of competition over partial compromise and the constant putting-in-jeopardy of permanent crises resolutions, as the American aggression, aiming at cementing its allies, leads China to higher defence outlays. Another cause is the ongoing South China Sea dispute between China, Taiwan, Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, the Philippines and Viet Nam.

Maintaining a balance of power is usually preferred to taking any other security measures, because it is a prerequisite of the system for the maintenance and the foundation for security measures; however in the case of Asia-Pacific there have not

been many efforts for the establishment of a balance of power and this, of course, has positive and negative effects clear on the status quo of the region, but not so clear on the status quo of the superpowers.

The repercussions of the current situation on the United States of America are economic and strategic. Its expenditures in the area are higher than they would be in the case of US domination, while its efforts not to lose significant allies have forced it to adopt conciliatory policies towards India, one of the states that have not signed the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), and ASEAN states, whose ideology differs from that of the US.

China is also faced with economic obstacles, as its current foreign policy has a high cost and as it cannot solely concentrate on its economy. It is also burdened, because the current system allows the US to pursue its economic interests in the whole region, since it is the only dominant power under these circumstances. Moreover, the fact that China has not proposed a concrete and effective version of regional order accounts for the consolidation of the US alliance system.

The establishment of a balance of power could enable Asia-Pacific to stabilise the economic and security interests at stake and the international community as a whole to encounter various recent threats (WMD, terrorism/piracy, DPRK and Pakistan nuclear weapons possession etc) and conciliate counterweighing powers (US, European Union, China, Russia). A minority retorts these arguments saying that a balance of power could cause greater instability by sharpening differences and rivalries.

## **Major Countries and Organisations Involved**

### China

China's poise has been described as that of a "great power in spe". Its policy can be summarised in the statement that it strives for peace and stability in order to focus on its domestic progress.

As far as the Indian Ocean is concerned, China's policy revolves around expanding its sovereignty and access on the grounds of protecting the SLOCs it uses for trade. It has also taken action for this purpose, namely the renovation of Myanmar naval facilities in order to monitor traffic and gain alternative access to the Malacca Strait. The overall preferred strategy of the Asian superpower is to find temporary solutions to disputes and hope for formal jurisdiction resolution at some future point.

Simultaneously, China has claims in the South China Sea, which it does not wish to drop. Governments of the other states with territorial claims have referred to the Chinese policy as "talk and take", since Beijing stresses the need for a peaceful resolution, but at the same time improves its presence in the region.

The power of China in Asia-Pacific reaches its minimum in the North-East and this is where its mistakes are tracked. China has oppressed the state of Taiwan and excluded it from international organisations including the UN. In its attempts to deflate Japan, it has tried to persuade the international community of the immorality and imperialistic attitude of the governmental policies. Last but not least, in talks with the Republic of Korea, it was said that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea would enter an international integration process, which has been proved to be untrue.

A precondition for pro-balance of power action by China is the adoption of a comprehensive policy, since different rules being applied to a specific area cannot be the case.

### United States of America

Although it may seem that the presence of the USA destabilises the Asia-Pacific system, it actually has a more stabilising impact. Throughout its presence in the region, which has been intensified after the terrorist attacks of 2001 and the Iraq war, it has formed several friendly relations with countries such as, but not limited to Australia, Japan and the ROK. The Forward Presence of the US Navy mainly contributes to the modernisation of allies' defence systems (technology sharing, military training, etc), but its full capabilities exceed it.

The USA generally tries to preserve democracy, believing it is the appropriate environment for development of the region. This is the reason why it has adopted a strict anti-proliferation policy, which has been loosened, however, in order for it to penetrate the Chinese nuclear energy market and keep India as an ally.

The tactics employed by the USA against Chinese hegemony threats are: a) the support of Japan, the Philippines and Taiwan in territorial disputes, however the potential escalation of these disputes will also harm the USA; b) the efforts to balance all of its Asia-Pacific allies against China despite the latter one's rapid development and despite the fact that Japan and the ROK, both USA allies, are almost belligerent.

The diminished American allowance for the region and the various hotspots around the globe contradict USA's efforts for dominance in Asia-Pacific. Another defect to be found in its policy are the prioritisation of stability before the consolidation of democracy in South-East, South and Central Asia. Examples of this constitute the support given to authoritative Singapore, Pakistan and Uzbekistan over democratic Indonesia, India and Central-Asia states respectively.

### Russian Federation

Russia is the main ally of China concerning this topic. In its efforts to escape isolation and compensate for the sanctions imposed by the Western countries, it has turned

to China and India for its economic well-being. It has developed arms and natural gas trade with China. Its Forward Presence is a high-cost mission which is not majorly supported any more, although it organised joint naval exercises with India in the past years. In contrast to the majority of the other regional countries, the Russian Federation is militarily self-reliant.

### Japan, Australia

Japan is heavily reliant on the SLOCs for its imports and has been harmed by past DPRK actions, thus siding with the USA pleading to be aided. In spite of its independency attempts, it remains dependent on the USA. Its contradiction against China is strengthened as it tries to be proclaimed the greatest Asian power.

Australia, being a middle power of the Asia-Pacific system, runs support operations in the Indian Ocean in the frame of its Forward Presence. Its major interactions with other regional powers are justified due to their exploitation of Australian natural gas reserves. In its efforts to become a major power, Australia tries to balance its interactions with the USA and China, although it supports the American balancing policy.

### India

India has not sided with either of the superpowers, since it tries to maximise its gain, and therefore has competitive and cooperative relations with both alliances (USA-Japan, China-Russia). Its navy is the third largest in the region and serves its wish to control its surrounding waters and secure SLOCs. It is generally favoured by both superpowers, probably with the prospect of gaining an ally.

### ASEAN

The ASEAN mainly consists of USA allies, however they partially side with China, as US dominance and hence policy change towards them is not desired. They agree on China's policy on cooperative security and multipolarity, steps to restrain an American hegemony, but, just like India, they do not want to join an alliance. The fact that there is no common ground for a balance of power means they also do not have to do so.

### European Union

The main European states involved in the issue are France and the United Kingdom, the two former colonialists of Asia-Pacific. French Forward Presence cooperates with South-Asian countries and exploits Antarctic territories, whilst the UK has a Forward Presence plan of cooperation of all its forces and joint exercises with Asia-Pacific nations in West Asia. Additionally, France is part of the regional arms market.

## Timeline of Events

The following table includes only some suggestive events in regards to the Asian-Pacific relations:

Date	Description of event
1947	Establishment of UNESCAP
1975	Signing of APTA
1989	Establishment of APEC
2000	Chinese proposal for Sino-ASEAN trade agreement
2013-present	Negotiations of the RCEP
August 2015	Estimated finalisation of TPP talks

## Relevant UN Treaties, Resolutions and Events

### United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia-Pacific (UNESCAP) and other UN entities

UNESCAP was established in 1947 as an ECOSOC division to focus solely on Asia-Pacific matters. Its 53 Member States discuss ways to enhance politics, security, economy, society and environment in the Asia-Pacific region.

The UN Development Programme (UNDP), the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) (UNRCPD) and the UN Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) also have regional centres.

### Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA)

APTA was signed as an initiative of UNESCAP in 1975 and was the first trade agreement of the region, with South and South-Eastern Asian nations as its members.

### Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP)

The TPP came as a reaction to the RCEP, which excludes the USA, as the TPP excludes China. The deal is negotiated between 12 countries and is hoped to be finalised by the end of July.

### Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC)

The TAC was signed in 1976 and declares peace and cooperation between the ASEAN countries.

### South East Asia Nuclear Weapons Free Zone (SEANWFZ)

The SEANWFZ is another treaty between ASEAN states, which forbids production, ownership or any other interaction with nuclear weapons and related material.

### Five Power Defence Arrangement (FPDA)

The FPDA is a multilateral collective security alliance between Australia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore and the UK, its establishment dating back to 1971. The original purpose of it was the improvement of Malaysian and Singaporean defence systems; however the aim has shifted to encountering terrorism in Asia-Pacific.

## **Previous Attempts to solve the Issue**

With its policy, the United States of America has strived for an Asia-Pacific rebalancing, aiming at the strengthening of its alliances in the region and at giving China a warning. However, this effort was met with failure and caused further imbalances.

## **Possible Solutions**

There are two courses of action for achieving a balance of power in Asia-Pacific proposed by the USA:

- 1) Accept China's plan by some compromises, like the retreat of the USA from conflicts and vivid economic activity in the region. This demands the democratisation of China, which is rather improbable to happen due to it involving the total fall of the current regime. Another alternative to democratisation could be the integration of Confucianism in a new type of regime. The main virtue of Confucianism is submissiveness, which promotes the reform of the society to a strictly hierarchical and obedient one, based on justice and mutual respect.

- 2) Reinforce a so-called “Pax Americana” (American Peace), which has the Chinese agreement to the USA principles and state conduct (including the organisation of the society with capitalistic standards and the resolution of China’s hegemonic behaviour towards its neighbours), as a precondition. Although it is the most preferable option for the USA, it is clear enough that its implementation is much more challenging.

Should the international community opt for one of the two aforementioned plans, there will be action to be taken by the USA and its allies: they will have to ensure and strengthen their military and naval presence, as well as form more alliances in the entire region and, generally, expand their activities.

China does not have a concrete counteroffer, but generally believes that the ideal balance of power in Asia-Pacific will be achieved through continuation of the Cold War UN system (including principles of absolute sovereignty and non-intervention). Although this is not an implementable solution, China supports it in order to block American plans. Measures of this bloc include independent development plans and intensification of the alliance through according trade, economic and political moves.

Keeping in mind that the balance of power to be developed needs to be maritime centric or, at least, maritime related, delegates should compose resolutions giving proposals on measures to create the appropriate environment for a stable balance of power and measures to ensure the system’s smooth transition and welfare, while always following their national policies and interests.

For example, a good way to stabilise the political situation is the establishment of a political union, which will clarify the members of “Asia-Pacific” and enable them to have common policies and development, but will on the other hand hinder existing alliances between states of the union and states out of it, and, possibly, create another pole of power, thus complicating the balance of power system. Another measure is the formation of a common currency unit; there have been talks about it and its implementation could be of great importance, mainly in regards to internal and external trade, fiscal policies and economic development, as well as, in regards to the Chinese acquisition of a leading role in the regional economies, which the USA does not desire. The management of SLOCs should be also settled in the frame of peaceful negotiations. The aim of this Committee is to avoid (armed) conflict and find a way to stabilise the developing region of Asia-Pacific.

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