

## ASEAN

**EU and ASEAN: in common disunity/ Alan Chong and Frederick Kliem**

*RSIS Commentary : No. 0077, 27 April 2020 (F31)*

Nationalist obsessions and failure to grasp the transboundary ramifications of the COVID-19 pandemic characterise the deficient responses of the world's two leading regional organisations. Serious reputational damage has been inflicted on the European Union and ASEAN.

**COVID-19: what changes - and what doesn't**

*RSIS Commentary : No. 0075, 17 April 2020 (F31)*

The roles of the individual and the government have been dramatically affected by the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic. There will be a profound effect on governance at all levels going forward. Existing domestic policies and prevailing bases of international cooperation cannot remain as in the status quo ante.

## CHINA

**China's Marine Corps is on the rise/ Michael A. Hanson**

*Proceedings US Naval Institute: April 2020, pp.30-34 (86)*

Throughout the years, China is pursuing global power projection capabilities and has been steadily building up its navy. But recent years showed that they are focusing on its marine corps and planning to increase its size and capabilities.

**China's development assistance in Southeast Asia: a threat to Japanese interests?/ Raymond Yamamoto**

*Asian Survey: Vol.60 No.2, March/April 2020, pp.323-346 (12)*

China's constant growing development assistance has been perceived as a threat to the autonomy and development of Southeast Asian countries that had promoted by Japan in the past. This paper challenges that understanding by comparing China's development assistance with Japan's engagement in the region. The comparison supports an alternative perspective, which sees Chinese development assistance as favourable for Japan's interests.

**China's Communist Party plans its COVID-19 recovery**

*Defense & Foreign Affairs Strategic Policy: No.3, 2020, p.20 (22)*

The Communist Party of China (PRC) was by early March 2020, preparing its strategy to move beyond the COVID-19 pandemic which had interrupted the economy of China. It's based on massive spending and massive revenge against states which did not provide support during the time of crisis.

## CHINA

**China and US soft power responses/ Loro Horta**

*RSIS Commentary : No. 0078, 28 April 2020 (F31)*

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has called on world leaders to set aside their differences and unite in the fight against the COVID-19 global pandemic. But not even the worst health crisis in recent human history can tame old-fashioned power politics. China and the US are looking at who will lose the most in the post-pandemic era.

**Tackling COVID-19: success or failure of China's governance?/ Anu Anwar**

*RSIS Commentary : No. 0066, 8 April 2020 (F31)*

China's centrally controlled one-party state was able to implement unprecedented draconian measures, resulting in new cases declining drastically in contrast to many parts of the world. Would the world even be facing this crisis if China had allowed the free flow of information and taken action at the beginning?

## COVID-19

**The COVID-19 wars: strategic warfare amid chaos, threat, opportunity/ Gregory R. Copley**

*Defense & Foreign Affairs Strategic Policy: No.4, 2020, pp.4-7 (22)*

Fear is the most powerful mass social force, easily capable of driving national-level and international political outcomes, overturning entrenched positions in the historical blink of an eye. The 2020 COVID-19 fears were a signal.

**COVID-19 crisis: timely reminder for climate change/ Margareth Sembiring**

*RSIS Commentary : No. 0074, 17 April 2020 (F31)*

The COVID-19 outbreak disrupted our daily lives and impacted national economies. Amidst the virus turmoil, our natural surroundings have benefited from the slowdown. The global community needs to make a concerted effort to rethink our approach to economic growth to avert a climate crisis.

## COVID-19

**Weaponising COVID-19: new trend in pandemic era?/ Kenneth Yeo Yaoren and Iftekharul Bashar**

*RSIS Commentary : No. 0068, 13 April 2020 (F31)*

Extremist and terrorist networks of various denominations are trying to exploit the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak to pursue their objectives. Responding to security threats in an era of global pandemics will require better understanding of evolving trends.

**Military response to COVID-19: advantages and constraints/ Angelo Paolo Trias**

*RSIS Commentary : No. 0065, 7 April 2020 (F31)*

Governments around the world are deploying their military forces to respond to COVID-19. Militaries can be helpful in responding to emergencies and disasters because of their organised and unique capabilities. But how can the military be useful in the fight against the coronavirus?

**Post COVID-19 world: will it reshape global leadership?/ Benjamin Tze Ern Ho**

*RSIS Commentary : No. 0064, 6 April 2020 (F31)*

The COVID-19 pandemic has accentuated political fissures within the international community, worsening the ongoing US-China competition. While the post COVID-19 world remains unclear, the contest for international leadership will go on.

**COVID-19 and global health diplomacy: can Asia rise to the challenge?/ Mely Caballero-Anthony**

*RSIS Commentary : No. 0060, 2 April 2020 (F31)*

Averting the catastrophic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic requires no less than a coordinated and effective global response with the participation of all actors at multiple levels of governance. Asia must seize the opportunity to define its role in this endeavour.

**CYBER WARFARE**

**Beijing's strategic support force: the key focus of US concern/ Yossef Bodansky**

*Defense & Foreign Affairs Strategic Policy: No.3, 2020, pp.4-6 (22)*

China's advanced technologies has caused major concerns to the US government especially now that the People's Liberation Army (PLA)'s Strategic Support Force (SSF) primary mission is to provide China with strategic intelligence from all source technical means, from satellites to hacking.

**INDONESIA**

**Indonesia: perennial issue of terrorist recidivism/ Noor Huda Ismail**

*RSIS Commentary : No. 0080, 30 April 2020 (F31)*

Amidst the worsening COVID-19 outbreak in Indonesia, concerns over a fresh uptick in terrorist recidivism have emerged. The imminent release of a large number of terrorist offenders from prisons around the country raises the prospect of several returning to a life of militancy.

**COVID-19 & its impacts: is Indonesia ready?/ Made Ayu Mariska**

*RSIS Commentary : No. 0072, 15 April 2020 (F31)*

The COVID-19 outbreak is driving countries around the world into uncharted territory. With more countries applying nationwide lockdowns, home quarantine, and other restrictive measures, a global food and financial crisis is now a real possibility. Is Indonesia ready to navigate challenges of that magnitude?

**Covid-19 pandemic in Indonesia: government response and politics/ Alexander R. Arifianto**

*RSIS Commentary : No. 0059, 2 April 2020 (F31)*

As the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases rose rapidly in Indonesia, the president imposed a state of emergency. The initial lethargy was due to unpreparedness, low public health spending, and a political structure that incentivises appointments based on political considerations.

**IT**

**Artificial intelligence: empowering smaller navies/ Richard A. Bitzinger**

*RSIS Commentary : No. 0058, 1 April 2020 (F31)*

Artificial intelligence (AI) has the potential to revolutionise military power and effectiveness. Smaller militaries - in this case, navies - should be able to cherry-pick AI technologies in order to gain new capabilities, particularly in intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) and unmanned systems.

**AI and technology convergence: catalyst or irritant of change?/ Zoe Stanley-Lockman**

*RSIS Commentary : No. 0057, 1 April 2020 (F31)*

Technology is not invented because of advances in a siloed scientific discipline, but rather because of convergence between different fields and interactions with social structures. With this in mind, how will governmental responsibilities be affected by technology-driven changes in the international system?

**NAVY**

**Make the best use of sailor's experience/ Jeffrey P. Helgesen**

*Proceedings US Naval Institute: April 2020, pp.16-17 (86)*

Training is pivotal to the career of every sailors in the navy including the U.S Navy sailor. Training will maintain readiness among sailors which will increase mission readiness that will inevitably able to save time, money and lives.

**PAKISTAN**

**Pakistan's nuclear weapons and the Kargil conflict: reassessing their role in the two sides' decision-making/ T. Negeen Pegahi**

*Asian Survey: Vol.60 No.2, March/April 2020, pp.245-264 (12)*

This article argues that the decision that was made during the 1999 Kargil conflict was driven by non-nuclear factors. It also showed Pakistan's nuclear weapons capabilities which restrained India from responding to the attack.

**SINGAPORE**

**War on COVID-19: more than one front/ Kumar Ramakrishna**

*RSIS Commentary : No. 0071, 15 April 2020 (F31)*

The current COVID-19 crisis is at its core a public health issue. However, because of its wider and significant social, economic and geopolitical impact, it can also be viewed from a national security lens.

**STRATEGY**

**War in a time of weakness/ Gregory R. Copley**

*Defense & Foreign Affairs Strategic Policy: No.4, 2020, pp.8-11(22)*

The 2020 fear pandemic breakpoint has moved the world from 'strategic competition' to semi-formal hostilities. It is now about strategic management in a period of economic and population decline and how quickly major powers regain control to enable them to resume to 'normal'.

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