

ASEAN

In limbo in ASEAN: pandemic and irregular migration/ S. Nanthini

RSIS Commentary : No. 0131, 25 June 2020 (F31)

COVID-19 has led to stricter border control measures the world over. This has had a particularly harsh impact on irregular migrants. As COVID-19 heightens their vulnerability, even as ASEAN meets in summit this week, this is an opportunity for ASEAN member states to support all those found within their borders.

Regional cohesion in the pandemic era/ Yang Razali Kassim

RSIS Commentary : No. 0130, 24 June 2020 (F31)

This Friday, Vietnam hosts the first-ever virtual annual ASEAN Summit. The COVID-19 pandemic, territorial disputes with China in the South China Sea, and the US-China trade tensions have severely tested Vietnam's stewardship of the regional grouping. Adapting well to the challenges, Hanoi is living up to its chairmanship theme of cohesive and responsive ASEAN. Hanoi's ties with Singapore are also on a positive trajectory, strengthening ASEAN cooperation and progress.

CHINA

China-India: the stability-instability paradox/ Rajesh Basrur

RSIS Commentary : No. 0128, 23 June 2020 (F31)

The China-India border clash could lead to various forms of military engagement. Notwithstanding the caution expected from both sides, real stability requires an agreement on the positioning of forces.

China and America: the power of historical memory/ Walter Woon

RSIS Commentary : No. 0118, 11 June 2020 (F31)

America has started a Confrontation with the PRC. Indiscriminate attacks on 'the Chinese' will provoke a nationalist backlash fuelled by the memory of historical oppression and racism. This Confrontation will consume resources better utilised to recover from COVID-19.

Why do states hedge in East Asia? an empirical study on hedging/ Charles Chong-Han Wu

Asian Perspective: Vol.43, No. 3, Summer 2019, pp.557-584 (11)

This article investigates whether countries in East Asia are acting anomalously from traditional balancing and bandwagoning assumptions in the face of China's reemergence in the form of sending ambiguous alignment signals toward the United States in return for more autonomy by states that have no official alliance with Beijing.

CHINA

China's rise and balance of power politics/ Zhen Han and T V Paul

The Chinese Journal of International Politics: Vol.13, No.1, Spring 2020, pp.1-26 (Online)

China is rapidly emerging as a serious contender for America's dominance of the Indo-Pacific. What is noticeable is the absence of intense balance of power politics in the form of formal military alliances among the states in the region.

Can China change the international system? the role of leadership/ Deborah Welch Larson

The Chinese Journal of International Politics: Vol.13, No.2, Summer 2020, pp.163-186 (Online)

As one of the great powers, China should follow moral values in its foreign policy in order for them to attain international leadership and thus influencing other states by leading as an example which can attract supporters by providing benefits instead of using coercion. Hence this article evaluates the feasibility of China's attainment of humane authority, which is related to status.

COMMAND

Mission command is essential to mission success/ Matthew Conners

Proceedings US Naval Institute: April 2020, pp.42-45 (86)

With only general instructions, sailors have managed to accomplish their mission objectives which is essential for the success of their overall mission.

COVID-19

Bapakism in Jokowi's pandemic handling: the cultural dimension/ Muhamad Arif and Sigit S. Nugroho

RSIS Commentary : No. 0133, 29 June 2020 (F31)

The Jokowi administration has been widely criticised for its handling of the COVID-19 pandemic, given its slow response, as well as inconsistent and unclear policies. Is there a cultural explanation for the president's less than satisfactory posture during this pandemic period?

Pandemic conundrum: to control or to trust?/ Yasmine Wong

RSIS Commentary : No. 0132, 26 June 2020 (F31)

The COVID-19 pandemic has blurred the boundaries between private and public life. Government efforts to discourage socially irresponsible behaviour have emboldened individuals to report, shame, and berate individuals who flout rules. This rise in mutual surveillance erodes trust in the community, and in social capital.

COVID-19

US-China rivalry post-pandemic: how will the world look like?/ Victor R Savage

[RSIS Commentary : No. 0125, 18 June 2020 \(F31\)](#)

COVID-19 has created a game changer in the US-China hegemonic rivalry. Both hegemons are affected economically and politically by the pandemic; the question is who will rise stronger out of this global catastrophe.

'Infodemic': more than a public health crisis/ Dymples Leong

[RSIS Commentary : No. 0123, 17 June 2020 \(F31\)](#)

COVID-19 demonstrates that a pandemic is more than just a public health crisis - it is also a communications emergency. With clear, effective policy planning and implementation, public messaging can be a highly effective way of mobilising citizens to tackle COVID-19 together.

Pandemic, technology & privacy: how far will the state go?/ Muhammad Faizal Abdul Rahman and Gulizar Haciyakupoglu

[RSIS Commentary : No. 0119, 12 June 2020 \(F31\)](#)

As more countries use technology to enhance anti-COVID-19 measures, surveillance and privacy are undergoing shifts in practice and norms. These shifts may have profound effects on social governance and create new issues in a post-pandemic world.

Pandemic response: the women, peace and security agenda/ Tamara Nair

[RSIS Commentary : No. 0114, 8 June 2020 \(F31\)](#)

In this time of compounding global crisis, the world needs to come together to not only fight the pandemic but to also preserve our commitments to certain shared beliefs. One of these is the eradication of gender inequality even in the midst of this humanitarian crisis.

CYBER

Towards understanding cybersecurity capability in Australian healthcare organisations : a systematic review of recent trends, threats and mitigation/ L Offner

[Intelligence and National Security : Vol. 35, No 4, June 2020, pp.556-585 \(99\)](#)

It examines recent trends in healthcare cybersecurity breaches that can disrupt essential services if patient safety and privacy are compromised. This systematic review compares international and Australian health system cybersecurity landscapes in relation to the introduction of universal electronic health records. The cybersecurity risk to healthcare, including ransomware attacks, hacking of personal medical devices and theft of personal medical data, is continuously rising. Stolen health records are worth more than records from any other industry, due to the high value of personal information.

INDONESIA

Indonesia's Islamic charities: plugging gaps in economic relief/ Alexander R Arifianto and Jonathan Chen

[RSIS Commentary : No. 0126, 19 June 2020 \(F31\)](#)

Although the Indonesian government has increased its budget deficit to accommodate a larger stimulus package, it is seen as insufficient to address the economic damage from the COVID-19 pandemic. Philanthropic organisations, in particular, Islamic charities, have stepped in to fill the gaps.

IT

Pandemic and beyond: phishing in a larger pond/
Jennifer Yang Hui and Teo Yi-Ling

RSIS Commentary : No. 0121, 15 June 2020 (F31)

The greatly increased reliance on technology for work, education, business, and social interaction during the COVID-19 pandemic has opened up opportunities for cyber criminals. It is highly probable that post-COVID-19, this reliance will lead to a hyperconnected world.

KOREA

Loss aversion and risk-seeking in Korea-Japan relations/
Chaekwang You and Wonjae Kim

Journal of East Asian Studies : Vol 20, Issue 1, March 2020,
pp.53-74

This article provides an enhanced understanding of the domestic political foundation of South Korean leaders' increasingly contentious attitude toward Japan.

MILITARY

On fortification: military architecture, geometric power, and defensive design/ Derek s Denman

Security Dialogue : Vol.51, No.2-3, April-June 2020. pp. 231-247 (47)

This article discusses fortification as a technique of power in which warfare, the design of the built environment and the organization of space are intertwined. It also follows the trajectory within military architecture by which linear fortifications became defense in depth and asks how transformations of 'depth' in contemporary warfare have come to integrate more complex, non-linear notions of space and time.

Women's participation in the Jordanian military and police: an exploration of perceptions and aspirations/ Katherine R. Maffey and David G. Smith

Armed Forces & Society: Vol. 46, No. 1, January 2020, pp.46-67 (3)

Women's military participation has been associated with military function and organization, social structure, culture, and political factors. This article explores that these factors and their subcategories simultaneously help and hinder them by using Jordanian military's women as a case study.

Why military organizations are cautious about learning?/ Hans Hasselbladh and Karl Yden

Armed Forces & Society: Vol. 46, No. 3, July 2020, pp.475-494 (3)

Military organization globally tend to focus on learning. Compared to other organization, military organizing is predicated on rigorous thinking. Hence this article discusses how military logic of action might be enacted differently in other sociocultural contexts.

PEACEKEEPING

Just different hats? comparing UN and Non-UN Peacekeeping/ Corrine Bara

*International Peacekeeping: Vol 27, No 3, June 2020,
pp.341-368 (96)*

The article is the novel dataset on non-UN peacekeeping strength and personnel composition to overcome the near-exclusive focus on UN missions in the scholarship on peacekeeping effectiveness. These studies have demonstrated that UN peacekeeping, and especially the deployment of sizable contingents of armed troops, is an effective tool to lower violence and keep the peace once obtained. The same empirical patterns from non-UN peacekeeping, or is there something particular about UN peacekeepers that make them more suitable for managing civil conflicts?

Breaking the balance? the impact of peacekeeping deployments on civil - military relations/ Monalisa Adhikari

*International Peacekeeping: Vol 27, No 3, June 2020,
pp.369-394 (96)*

The UN, notably the UN's Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), has been unable to use its leverage over military forces in TCCs to push through reforms on civil military relations. Instead, peacekeeping deployments bring significant institutional, political and financial benefits to the security forces in TCCs, which impacts the civil-military equilibrium within them. In doing so, the article does not claim a direct causal relationship between peacekeeping deployments and the state of civil-military relations in FCAS, but rather seeks to explore the contours of their interaction. To pursue these arguments, I borrow from Owens to define civil-military relations as: allocation of responsibilities and prerogatives between the civil government and the military establishment.

PEACEKEEPING

Red under blue : Chinese humanitarian actions in UN Peacekeeping missions/ Jung Jae Kwon

International Peacekeeping: Vol 27, No 3, June 2020, pp.417-444 (96)

This article provides evidence that Chinese peacekeepers systematically engaged in very similar types of humanitarian behaviour regardless of their unit type or area of operations. The documents humanitarian activities of Chinese national contingents in UN peacekeeping operations and suggests that Chinese soldiers are executing a humanitarian program likely orchestrated by its national military organization. This article also discusses factors inherent in the current UN peacekeeping regime that enable national contingents, including but not limited to those of China, to engage in independent humanitarian action while serving under the UN flag.

SECURITY

Sino-Indian face off: 'mutual security'?/ PS Suryanarayana

RSIS Commentary : No. 0124, 18 June 2020 (F31)

The latest confrontation between China and India in the western sector of their disputed frontier has turned violent. Both countries officially reported casualties during the de-escalation phase. However, China's earlier announcement of an agreement to "ameliorate the border situation" had raised hopes of some stability in this year of Sino-Indian 'celebration' of seven decades of diplomacy.

Everyday secrecy: oral history and the social life of a top-secret weapons research establishment during the Cold War/ William Walters

Security Dialogue : Vol.51, No.1, February 2020. pp. 60-76 (47)

The article examines the state secrecy, the ways in which security actors experience, practise and negotiate secrecy in their everyday work lives that has been overlooked.

Security in the balance: how Britain tried to keep its Iraq War secrets/ Owen David Thomas

Security Dialogue : Vol.51, No.1, February 2020. pp. 77-95 (47)

State secrecy is incompatible with the values of liberal democracy if there is no publicly reasonable justification for the concealment. But the question of how to keep state secrets amidst suspicion that no such justification exists or those secrets contain evidence of wrongdoing? Hence this article maps and critiques the justificatory strategies that were used by the British state in refusing to disclose secret material related to the 2003 Iraq War, despite widespread accusations of hidden deception and illegality.

SINGAPORE

Pandemic and vulnerability: lessons from Lee Kuan Yew/ Liu Enxiao

RSIS Commentary : No. 0116, 10 June 2020 (F31)

A sovereign city state is born with vulnerability. Though the COVID-19 pandemic is magnifying this vulnerability, the wisdom of Lee Kuan Yew in beating odds faced by Singapore is still highly relevant. He has built a cohesive, non-complacent and resilient society.

Pandemic response: role of the state/ Luca Farrow

RSIS Commentary : No. 0115, 9 June 2020 (F31)

The COVID-19 pandemic has bolstered the case for large-scale government intervention in the economy and in ensuring social welfare. It has thrown into further doubt the neoliberal notion that shrinking the public sector to empower the private market will deliver optimal social and economic outcomes.

TERRORISM

Radicalized for revenge: the rise of revenge terrorism/
Jason Destein

The Journal of Counterterrorism and Homeland Security International : Vol 25, No 4, 2020 (29) (Online)

This article discusses the rise of terrorist attacks globally and most of the attacks are due to revenge-driven motivation.

Issues in predicting and forecasting future terrorist warfare/ Joshua Sinai

The Journal of Counterterrorism and Homeland Security International : Vol 25, No 4, 2020 (29) (Online)

The field of counter-terrorism studies requires new ways of thinking and methodologies to enable analysts and practitioners to predict and forecast new types of warfare and targeting likely to be employed by their adversary terrorist groups.

UNITED STATES

The 'George Floyd' unrest: its strategic implications/
Adam Garfinkle

RSIS Commentary : No. 0113, 8 June 2020 (F31)

Racially charged civil unrest in the United States will affect the November election, undermine military morale if the president orders military force to smother protests, and further estrange Americans from supporting an active and constructive US role in global affairs. The "George Floyd" moment may therefore be justifiably counted as a significant historical inflection point.

WOMEN IN MILITARY

"I'm not your 'typical' military wife": the construction of gender and agency through stereotypes/ Elizabeth Ziff and Felicia Garland-Jackson

Armed Forces & Society: Vol. 46, No. 3, July 2020, pp.376-396 (3)

Military wives are undisputedly crucial to the functioning of their service member husbands although they are considered to be a subordinate to their husbands within the military and the community. Hence this article examines how these military wives navigate the military-spouse role within the institutional, community-oriented context of the military.

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