


Chapter 4

China and Global South: BRI in Southeast Asia

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ABSTRACT

The Southeast Asian region is one of the most important regions of the Belt and Road Initiative and the Maritime Silk Road. In the field of the Maritime Silk Road, measures such as the construction and equipping of ports, the construction of high-speed railways, the construction of equipped highways, and port industrial parks have been put on the agenda. Therefore, the question that arises is what are the most important measures taken by China in the form of the Belt and Road Initiative (the Belt and Road Initiative and the Digital Silk Road) in the Southeast Asia Region? Which countries in the region are the most important countries of the Belt and Road Initiative, which countries are the most important countries of the Digital Silk Road, and what measures has China taken in these countries?

INTRODUCTION

In the last two decades, the number of developing countries and emerging markets has increased, and a trend towards fragmentation and fragmentation of global economic governance has emerged. This framework has become increasingly complex, with an increasing number of intergovernmental cooperation groups emerging, each of which encompasses a set of behaviors and practices that may sometimes conflict with each other: cooperation versus competition, and convergence versus fragmentation. Thus, with the emergence of a new set of emerging powers and extensive initiatives to promote transregional cooperation since the early 2010s, a

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complex nature of global governance has emerged. Thus, according to the Global South approach, a pluralism of the concept of global order is envisaged, which is present in the policies, traditions, and practices of many countries in the Global South. Emerging powers have long stressed the need for pluralism and recognition of differences and diversity, and have sometimes been dissatisfied with the homogenizing processes of globalization. The complaint and dissatisfaction of emerging powers and developing countries with globalization is that in the globalization space, the benefits are unevenly distributed, highly selective, and unequally applied and that Western-style globalization has ignored the countries and societies of the developing and emerging world and presents Western narratives of how globalization should develop. Therefore, a new pluralism must return to the international political space, and according to this pluralism, more complex mechanisms and institutions for global governance should be formed. Accordingly, diverse social patterns are formed that are not necessarily the same as the pattern originating in the West. In this pluralist perspective, liberal narratives of progress and modernization are being challenged both from within the emerging Western world and from the emerging non-Western world.

This major shift in the international structure has been termed the “rise of the South” and refers to a political phenomenon that has affected the global balance of power. It has been driven largely by China and India – supported by Brazil, South Africa, Mexico, and Indonesia. These countries have acted in different ways, demanding a stronger voice in international forums on different issues and pushing for specific reforms in some institutions of global governance, especially those controlled by Western powers – for example, those created by the Bretton Woods agreement. Overall, these emerging powers prefer to expand cooperation among themselves without the mediation of traditional powers and actors. This has led to the creation of various regional groupings such as IBSA, MINT, G20, and BRICS. Previously accustomed to “obeying” and following existing norms and institutions, they are now aware of their ability to do things differently. Some analysts claim that we have now entered a new phase in the global arena called the “post-American world order”, while others prefer to call it “post-Western” or posit a new Cold War between China and the United States.

Therefore, a new world order has been formed with the emergence of the global South, and on this basis, the pattern of easternization of power and the role of Eastern actors (states, organizations, and institutions) can be explained. In this new framework of governance, a kind of regional inter-civilizational pluralism is formed, and it challenges the purely Western materialistic perspective. In this easternized pattern of power, the structure of the international system requires a careful review. Of course, this pattern involves cooperation with other countries to review the global order. We can call this pattern of power easternization the pattern of “cooperative

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