
Editorial

This is *Perceptions'* second volume in a special edition on Asia. The previous issue examined East Asia's dynamic regional affairs and international relations. We have aimed to be as inclusive as possible in terms of covering the various issues that pertain to Asia. However, two volumes cannot be all inclusive considering the number of international issues at stake in this region and the blossoming scholarship on these matters. We hope that the special edition of *Perceptions* will contribute to current scholarship on Asian foreign policy issues and will pave the way for further research in this critical area of study. This issue also has articles apart from the focus on Asia.

There are six articles on Asia in this second issue. Namrata Goswami touches upon the rise of China and its effects in the region. Goswami analyses the power shifts in Asia through the prism of two major international relations theories, realism and liberal institutionalism, and concludes that China will prioritise cooperation over conflict as it is the least costly option in terms of maintaining its current state of development. Ramon Pacheco Pardo scrutinises EU- East Asian relations and looks at how these relations

have evolved since the global financial and eurozone debt crises. The EU's economic, political and security domination has shifted with the turbulences witnessed in the global financial system, leading to a more balanced relationship between the EU and East Asia. G.V.C. Naidu discusses the "Look East Policy" put into practice by India towards East Asia, which has evolved into a comprehensive engagement underpinned by several political institutional mechanisms, strong economic association through a variety of agreements, and robust defence links and security cooperation, and then examines how it has resulted in India becoming an important part of the evolving East Asian economic and security order.

Brazil has undergone major changes in the last two decades. Due to the new domestic context of democracy, free markets, economic development, and social inclusion, the country has begun to be perceived as an emerging power and a regional leader. Alexandre Uehara and Guilherme Casarões analyse Brazil's relations with China, Japan, South Korea and North Korea. As the political dimension has come into prominence in trade and investment relations,

the authors maintain that stronger ties between Brazil and East Asia will become paramount in shaping a new global order. Suisheng Zhao critically examines China's rise as a great power and seeks to answer the question of whether the Chinese leadership has renounced its low-profile diplomacy by reorienting its foreign policy in a more aggressive direction, and if the country is ready to take a global leadership role and assume international responsibility as a great power. Sadık Ünay discusses China's re-engagement with the global political economy and its unprecedented ascendance as a major economic powerhouse since the mid-1990s, events which have triggered a radical re-evaluation concerning China's importance for the future of the world economy and global governance. Ünay argues that China's current growth capacity is based on a deep interdependence with Western interests and multinational corporations.

In addition to the articles focusing on East Asia, this issue contains two articles on Turkey's relations with Armenia and one on Turkish foreign policy. Hasan B. Yalçın evaluates Turkey's rejection of the US's demand to deploy American troops on its territory, also known as the "1 March Motion", and argues that Turkey had a proactive strategy of avoidance regarding the US's demands mainly because of its concerns of the possible

consequences of the instability that was expected as an outcome of a US war in Iraq. Zaur Shiriyev and Celia Davies analyse the domestic and regional impact of the Turkish-Armenian normalisation process from the Azerbaijani perspective, with a focus on the changing dynamic of Ankara-Baku relations in light of the outcome of the Zurich Protocols. Cory Welt maintains that after Turkey and Armenia signed the protocols on opening diplomatic relations and land borders, the prospects for Turkish-Armenian normalisation in the absence of progress on the Karabakh conflict have been slim. Welt proposes an unconditional opening of Turkish-Armenian diplomatic relations, followed by a retooling of the Basic Principles, accepting a linkage between the border opening and the withdrawal of Armenian forces from territory outside Nagorno-Karabakh.

Perceptions is the flagship publication of the Center for Strategic Research (SAM). SAM will continue to publish special editions as well as issues of mixed articles keeping its central focus on Turkish foreign policy and international relations in general. SAM also has Vision Papers and SAM Papers in the format of reports and policy papers. All publications are available on SAM's website, sam.gov.tr. Stay tuned for more!

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