



ASSOCIATION OF ASIA SCHOLARS GLOBALISING ASIA

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From the Editors' Desk...

75 years of India's Independence

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15th August 2021, marks 75th anniversary of India's independence. For us at AAS, August 15 marks completion of a full year of the publication of AAS NewsLetter Globalising Asia. It is gratifying to note that our Newsletter has been well received by scholars and practitioners both inside and beyond our borders. It is the overwhelming response from our contributors and readers that Globalising Asia now enters its second volume with two additional pages.

This inaugural issue of volume 2 not only celebrates India's independence but also India's pledge to be part of global efforts at ensuring peace and prosperity of all nations of our unique blue planet. This issue, therefore, focuses on the theme held so dearly by India's leaders: working relentlessly on adaptation and mitigating strategies to redress existential threats to our environment; take all nations together through local, national and global efforts. In the face of forest fires that are raging from California to Greece, and littoral islands facing threat of extinction, massive landslides in the mighty mountains, sheets of ice melting raising sea levels, and freak weather incidents becoming far too frequent, all doubts about the fragility of our blue planet begin to dispel, calling for urgent action.

The August 9, 2021 Report of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) comes just about three months before COP26, (the climate summit to be held in Glasgow in November 2021). This IPCC Report underlines how the rising temperatures that we've experienced to date have made changes even to our planetary support systems and how these

will be irreversible on timescales of centuries or millennia. To bequeath to future generations a world in which the entire ecosystem has been ravaged, is not what is expected of any nation. The words of Greta Thunberg must haunt world leaders and goad them to undertaking concrete action to achieve net zero emissions. All achievements of economic growth and prosperity become illusory, mere fairytales, when future generations have been wronged!

Although India's total contribution to climate change in the last 200 years is a mere 3 percent, the evolving fragile future cannot be surmounted by launching blame games. For constructive initiatives, principles like Polluter Must Pay or Per Capita Emissions have their limitations. World has to work out solutions within extent disjunctions while attempting to bring sanity to varying visions. As a civilisational state, India must continue its concerted efforts at local as well as global levels. India's International Solar Alliance initiatives is a case in point but India must do much more. Grounded in its ancient dictum of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, India's commitment towards humanity and for the South-South Cooperation. The COP26 must become the inflection point of its rededication to recast global norms, rules, and laws to sustain good life for future generations. In the 75th year of India's independence, the most credible way of celebrations can be India assuming a leading role in shaping both the narratives and governance to redress climate change challenges of our beautiful blue planet.

*Prof Swaran Singh
Dr. Reena Marwah*

International Climate Governance: Indian Perspectives

Climate change is currently placed on every national and international agenda and is shaping strategies of most businesses worldwide and international cooperation is seen as indispensable to meet this collective goods problem. Climate policy indeed has evolved as a



Dr. Chaitra C

subset of the foreign policy of all major and small, vulnerable nations. When it comes to India, environmental ethos, being integral to its civilisational legacies, have undergirded India's increasing participation in global climate change governance. New Delhi has repeatedly repositioned itself from normative to empirical approaches seeking equitable distribution of the carbon space while underlining the 'historical responsibilities' narrative. Given its emissions profile, economic growth, and leadership role in the developing world, India has been capitalising on the avenues of climate change related market mechanisms like CDMs and co-benefits from the adaptation and mitigation efforts. Over the years, India's climate change policies have evolved as a by-product of its energy and economic policies and in accordance with international agreements and protocols.

India desires to strengthen its international stature and diplomatic position and therefore has been embarking on voluntary pledges related to emission reduction. India's quest for a leadership role in climate architecture has rejuvenated its role in climate governance. Under the Paris Agreement, India had committed to reduce greenhouse gas emission intensity of its GDP by 33-35% below 2005 levels by 2030 and has achieved emission intensity of GDP reduced by 21 percent below 2005 levels by 2014. Further, it has committed that about 40 percent of its electricity requirements would be based on non-fossil fuels by 2030 and

and about 35% of power capacity was based on non-fossil fuels by March 2018. India had also pledged to create an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent through additional forest and tree cover by 2030. Indian Pavilion at the Conference of Parties (COP) had showcased indigenous knowledge and sustainable lifestyles which promises to enrich its soft power as well. The Parampara and Samanvay catalogue that India unveiled at Paris were significant in this regard.

India remains committed to global efforts as seen in collaborative, ambitious initiatives like the International Solar Alliance and Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure. India's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and ratification of Paris Treaty reflect India's engagement with climate change initiatives on a global scale.

Simultaneously, India needs to address socio-economic development needs of 1.3 billion people, such as access to electricity to all; and also cater to industrial and infrastructural developments. Being the third largest emitter of carbon dioxide, India needs to move away from rhetorical advocacy appeal as a developing nation. However, India should revive third-world solidarity like in the early years of independence with the Non-Aligned Movement.

This third-world cooperation will enhance India's credibility as a global leader for the LDCs and the small island countries. While it needs to insist on technology transfer and financial assistance from the developed world, it also needs to partner with them in order to fast forward its own initiatives. It is true that India has often been under-committing and over-performing in terms of its voluntary pledges at various environmental conferences; which is also true with its own domestic renewable energy targets. India needs to strengthen its relations with like-minded nations of the South like China, Brazil, and South Africa such as in the BASIC grouping and with oil-producing nations that shares similar concerns and considers legally binding emission reduction commitments as a threat to future economic development potentials. Climate change continues to be on the agenda of the BRICS as well. Establishing friendly relations with the oil-producing countries is essential for India's future energy security, given its low oil-reservoirs and increasing energy demands. Furthermore, if India becomes a member of Nuclear Suppliers' Group, it could probably more effectively implement the Paris Treaty commitments and the climate goal under the SDGs framework. The UNSC permanent seat could add to India's increased presence in the international climate governance mechanism.

India, domestically, has made noticeable strides in its renewable energy sectors like adding 15000 sq. km. forest cover over the past seven years. However, India does not seem in position as yet to dismantle its fossil fuel dependency. The G7 'nature compact', 30by30 pledge formulated by the US has been endorsed by India. India has joined the Adaptation Action Coalition but not a part of Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA). With 17.8% of the world's population, India is responsible for a meagre 3.2% of cumulative emissions. From a climate denial mode to being an agenda-setter, India's role in international climate governance is

conspicuous. The emphasis on net zero by 2050, under the aegis of the UN, to adhere to 2o Celsius target and China's recent announcement of achieving net-zero by 2060 places further burden on India. Amid the COVID pandemic, green recovery and circular economy arrangements have got an impetus. Thus, with a continued emphasis on sustainable development and not compromising its national interests, a multilateral approach has been the way forward for India. India has also continued to emphasise on equity and justice parameters and draw its own low carbon path trajectory, showcasing its responsibilities towards global commons and its actions, forcing the developed countries to introspect their contributions to protecting the planet.

India's approach to climate governance mirrors balancing international commitments and domestic developmental imperatives. India has engaged in greening while abiding by its voluntary commitments, thereby increasing its respect and bargaining space in the international realm.

It has to balance these commitments with need to uphold its citizens' well-being; ensure energy security and prestige in the international realm. India has a rich tradition of not exploiting nature, and its indigenous knowledge and sustainable lifestyles are already being endorsed on climate negotiation fora. With this, the Indian government and global fraternity should take up moral responsibility to make this world a better place as there is No Planet B possible.

The Post-Paris World: New Language of Consensus

In a rather ambiguous passage, Donald Rumsfeld, the US secretary of state during the Bush Jr. era, outlined the policy choices that confronted him during the post 9/11 war on terror as, “Reports that say that something hasn't



Dr Saurabh Thakur

happened are always interesting to me, because as we know, there are known knowns; there are things we know we know. We also know there are known unknowns; that is to say we know there are some things we do not know. But there are also unknown unknowns—the ones we don't know we don't know.” The categories he outlined are extremely relevant within the emerging climate change debate, particularly when one considers the advent of the Anthropocene discourse. The Anthropocene attempts to trace the roots of the present-day ecological crisis and construct a narrative that holds far-reaching implications for an uncertain and unknown future for both humans and environment. Steeped in a language of urgency and apocalyptic change, Anthropocene proscribes an ambitious socio-political churning in order to secure the future.

The language of crisis, the mainstay of the Kyoto Protocol period, is beginning to be replaced with a more robust and urgent call to action. Much like the central argument of the Anthropocene, the climate crisis is no more a futuristic but an unfolding catastrophe in the present. The COP meetings from 2009 till 2015 rebuilt the UNFCCC framework, by incorporating a range of issues like Loss and Damage and Climate Justice in a preambular form. The CBDR-RC, the operational principle of equity within the negotiations, is replaced with CBDR-RC according to 'evolving national circumstances. President Obama's speech at the Paris COP21 in 2015 had conveyed this urgency in a language previously unseen from the

reluctant US. He warned, “Submerged countries. The argument is made in favour of going beyond such categorisations — Warming beyond 3 degrees should be deemed "catastrophic," and beyond 5 degrees to be "unknown".

The near-universal consensus of the Paris agreement puts forth two contradictory developments: First, is the role of scientific expertise is undergoing a massive change in the politics of climate change. This relationship remains 'inconsistent and apocryphal', and the concept of 'best available science' signals a shift within the policymaking where climate science has transformed from advocacy to a 'solution-and future-oriented', regulatory science.

The scale of the crisis deems it necessary that the world thinks beyond simple categorisation of 'dangerous', as enshrined in the 1992 UNFCCC text. The Paris Agreement that enshrines the two degrees objective has managed to establish a quantitative criterion to assess collective efforts of the parties.

The scientific expertise is increasingly seen as cogent alternative to political legitimacy. The COP21 marked the beginning of a polycentric form of governance architecture, whose success depends on the coordinated efforts of states and non-state actors. The scientific community was traditionally assigned the role to experiment with new modes of knowledge and technology, while the application of such new developments was the prerogative of the states.

This clear boundary was challenged in the era of globalisation with the emergence of institutions like the world bank and IMF. The transnational nature of the climate problem in an interconnected world meant that politics and science did not fit into neat compartments, and this interaction extended in multiple dimensions and domains.

The vocabulary of crisis, which predominated these negotiations during early years, is either getting replaced by the cataclysmic language or complete denial. The language of moral culpability and differentiated responsibility, which were the hallmarks of the 1992 convention, have lost favour for a more obscure alternative of ambition, which remains unstitched.

The second development is the role of CBDR-RC, which has been reduced to the side-lines of the convention. The post-Paris discourse is described as, “a post-equity era of a voluntary and universal climate agreement. In this post-equity world, issues can be addressed by national contributions that will be self-determined”. The new interpretation of CBDR-RC marks the end of differentiation enshrined in the Kyoto regime. CBDR-RC remains in the text of the Paris agreement, yet the operationalisation of equity remains an unfinished task. Buchanan & Keohane distinguish between legitimacy of the political process and equity and justice issues, thereby making a case that such issues tend to, “delegitimise the institution” and, in the end, prove to be self-defeating from the standpoint of justice itself. The failure to meet the demands of justice would be self-defeating from the standpoint of justice itself.

Foyer et al point towards the process of acclimatisation wherein, "COP21 simultaneously appears as an occasion, for a variety of actors, to lobby for the inclusion of new issues and topics into climate talks, and as a highly efficient cleansing device where climate change is rendered 'governable' through the deliberate omission of specific issues and alternative approaches to the problem." The event provided a brief preview of the global environmental governance, where the most vulnerable communities are at risk of being relocated into a new epoch of Anthropocene, where expertise is privileged over the day-to-day struggles of those who sit at the margins. The language of universalism and global innovative solutions become ubiquitous both in the speeches of the leaders as well as texts, yet the real politics of climate change has regressed further back to the domestic sphere. The consensus of Paris came at the cost of principles of CBDR-RC and historical responsibility, and yet the outcomes have more or less remained stagnant.

Continuing Crisis Inside Myanmar: The Way Forward

Agriculture as the most affected sector from climate change remains pivotal to human survival. But this is one sector that remains connected to climate change both amongst its multiple causes as also in its consequences. Most noticeable amongst its victims have been the poor rural farmers around the world, whose contributions to this larger climate change remains minimal and yet they have been especially exposed to climate change. They are often least skillful to employ even their indigenous mitigating techniques or draw benefits from the developmental strategies crafted by those empowered. Consumerist culture on the other hand has reached its nadir in promoting air-conditioning to redress heatwaves or sunscreen lotions to protect skin from harsh sun exposure. This has clearly been done at the core of poor farmers' livelihoods.



Swati Saini

In recent decades, for instance, have witnessed changes in climate leading to both natural and man-made disasters. Each time, risks remain unevenly distributed and are invariably far greater in case of the disadvantaged communities. Farmers as a community have been most affected by variations in weather patterns. These have also affected rich farmers who have had relatively wealthy lifestyles, owning much mechanised farming and everyday comforts like cars, air conditioners or other symbols of luxurious life. Only their staying power is perhaps relatively better. On the other hand, the worst affected have been the agricultural labour and landless farmers.

The Fifth Assessment report of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has for nth time again underlined how anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) have increased since the pre-industrial; these are now far higher than ever. This has led to atmospheric concentrations of

carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide (N₂O) that are unprecedented in at least the last 800,000 years (IPCC 2015). Changing rainfall patterns, cloud bursts, heatwaves, and other impacts of climate change have exposed agricultural community to year-round challenges impacting all of their crops. Recent years have seen the United Nations declared multiples famines in countries like Somalia and Sudan which others have sought to manage using imports of buffers. The United Nation has warned that "20 million people face the threat of famine in Nigeria, South Sudan, Somalia, and Yemen". Famine was officially declared in parts of South Sudan in February, 2017, the first time anywhere in the world since 2011. Besides, repeated floods due to extreme rainfall have also claimed hundreds of lives and displaced thousands of poor farmers in Mozambique, Malawi.

Nearer home in South Asia, agricultural production across nations has been affected repeatedly by uneven monsoon resulting in untimely flooding or draughts. Such unequal consequences of climate change have raised debates about addressing issues regarding climate justice.

Climate justice demands that the fight against the negative consequences of climate change must become equitable and yet sensitive to the needs of those most affected. It also requires developing evolve affordable technical and scientific solutions and subsidising their accessibility. Climate justice seeks to transform the global economic system through the redistribution of resources.

It is a fight against power structures that gives authority to a corporate elite who despite having contributed to the climatic problems have been given the mandate to solve it. Post-Industrial Revolution developed nations have been responsible for devastating changes in climate and they must recognise their debt for creating fair and just basis for a just, effective and scientific solution to climate change (IUCN 2010).

Rather than limiting mitigation strategies to just providing financial compensation the need of the hour is to restore climate justice understood as the integrity to our mother earth and all of its beings. Clearly agriculture forms the core of that regeneration of environmental and ecological balance.

This also remains of utmost importance in view of ensuring food security for all that requires climate change mitigation using innovative agricultural strategies especially using indigenous knowledge, sharing best practices and experience with other farmers. Also food must be grown for the people not for profit. But agriculture also must not become a loss making sector given the effects of climate change on yields. Climate change has hampered yields in most producing regions around the world. What needs to be understood is that the consequence of climate change cannot be addressed by ad hoc solutions of developing innovative protective gears but in changing our development models and daily lifestyles to control greenhouse gas production and emissions rather than carbon trading strategies.

To conclude therefore, policies and actions to redress climate change consequences has to be understood as a shared problem of our planet and all its beings and how it needs urgent attention at

global, national as well as in day-to-day life at the local level. Wider social, economic and environmental strategies recasting trade, investment, infrastructure, and education have to consistently support sustainable productivity growth and consumption patterns. It would need blending various combinations of adaptation and mitigation efforts at the most basic level. Policies that aim to address climate change should emphasise both on process-driven as also outcome-based incentives for agriculture sector and facilitate knowledge transfer systems that enhance farmer capacity to achieve sustainable productivity growth through mitigating and adaptive practices that are environment friendly and sustainable.

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Webinar Session 47: June 21, 2021 [Link to webinar here](#)

“Europe and Asian Security: The Strategic and Geopolitical Dilemmas” by Prof Darko Trifunovic



Association of ASIA SCHOLARS **MILLENNIAL ASIA**
An International Journal of Asian Studies

AAS Webinar Series (every 1st & 3rd Wednesday): Session 47
21 July 2021 (Wednesday), 05:30 PM- 07:00 PM (IST)

***Participants will be given E- Certificate on request, who either made comments or asked questions during webinar**

EUROPE AND ASIAN SECURITY: STRATEGIC AND GEOPOLITICAL DILEMMAS

Speaker:
Prof. Darko Trifunovic
Director, Institute for National and International Security, Republic of Serbia
Editor, Security Science Journal

Chair:
Prof Swaran Singh
President, AAS

Registration FREE

Webinar Host: Dr. Reena Marwah, Secretary-General, AAS
Register in advance for this meeting @ rb.gy/ab6iv4

Prof. Darko Trifunovic, discussed the strategic and geopolitical dilemmas in Europe and Asian Security. He spoke in detail about the science of security and the notion of security. Science of security is based on five major theories which includes theory of law, theory of state, theory of complex system. According to him, security is science because it has a special methods which actually distinguish it from other social sciences. He illustrated this through collection of data, assessment of data and analysis of data. According to him, there are 5 key elements in security threats in the region, Jihadis in Vienna, Austria. These is a presence of terrorists, secondly there is the presence of terrorist organizations, thirdly some types of NGOs. Fourthly, there is the presence of states which are supporting such terrorists and groups and lastly the presence of motivation or manipulation of Islamism as a great religion and motivation for terrorist attack. Such key elements are present in Europe, as well as in Asia. . He further added that our leaders and policymakers don't understand the nature of threats. The speaker stressed that the eminent threats to Asia and Europe are coming from geopolitical threats, as well as quest for resources including energy,

natural gas, pipelines, oil whales among others. The superpowers will always do anything to control energy. It is very important to follow the line in geopolitics. According to the speaker, geopolitics is completely a demonstration of power and demonstration of violence. He stressed upon academicians to join together and raise their voice through books, talks and others and to use science to stop the wars and violence as well as proxy wars. It's an obligation on the part of academicians, policy makers to use the power of the pen and to use science to find out pathways for peace. He emphasised on India and China as key players in the Asian region; they should take up the lead to govern and preserve natural resources and the environment. This insightful talk was followed by a question and answer session in which several queries on the Asian and Europe strategic partnership were raised.

By Swati Saini

Webinar Session 48: August 04, 2021 [Link to webinar here](#)

“China’s Approach to Maritime Security in the Indian Ocean” by Dr. Jeff Becker



Association of ASIA SCHOLARS **MILLENNIAL ASIA**
An International Journal of Asian Studies

AAS Webinar Series (every 1st & 3rd Wednesday): Session 48
04 August 2021 (Wednesday), 05:30 PM- 07:00 PM (IST)

CHINA'S APPROACH TO MARITIME SECURITY IN THE INDIAN OCEAN

Participants will be given E. Certificate on request, who either made comments or asked questions during webinar

China's Presence in the Middle East and Western Indian Ocean: Beyond Belt and Road

Speaker:
Dr. Jeff Becker
Director, Indo-Pacific Security Affairs Program
Centre for naval analysis, Arlington
District of Columbia, United States

Chair:
Prof Swaran Singh
President, AAS

Registration FREE

Webinar Host: **Dr. Reena Marwah**, Secretary-General, AAS

Register in advance for this meeting @ [rb.gy/ro6ol1](#)

The speaker began by emphasizing a watershed transformation of the PLA Navy that is increasingly taking up a global role. Quoting Alfred Mahan he said ‘Whoever controls the Indian Ocean will dominate Asia’ is the belief that PLA functions by. He identified key areas of responsibility of PLA Navy and its drivers as Oil, Trade and Investments. In 2020 China imported 540 tonnes of crude oil which was a 7.8% increase from 2019. This import is likely to grow in the coming years. The key driver to its economic growth is domestic consumption. Moreover, 20% of China’s GDP comes from exports making it extremely essential for it to protect its trade routes. The number of Chinese civilians living abroad, especially around the Indian Ocean is increasing, making it even more imperative for China to make their presence in the waters. He cited the Yemen Operations of 2015 on how it gains legitimacy for its actions.

He then argued that even though the number of ships is increasing at an alarming rate, the defence of Chinese assets is still weak. This makes way for the strength of US and Indian presence which is essential to counter its activities. Its island-

building activities in the South China Sea is essential to understand China’s approach to the Indian Ocean. With improved surveillance in the Malacca Straits, there is a potential for China to replicate its work in Djibouti wherein it has secure ports to facilitate trade. Even the merchant ships from China are being built to military specifications and have recently participated in the navy exercises. However, its ability to conduct operations is still doubtful.

The PLA Navy Marine corps have gone through a rigorous reform in the past decade catering to the challenges in the near seas and the Indian Ocean. Its quantitative efforts have made it noticeable, however qualitatively it still faces a challenge. Over the past decade, the focus of the PLA Navy has shifted from the Pacific to the Indian Ocean. This was then followed by an interactive Question-Answer session where concerns like ASEAN, UNCLOS, and others were addressed.

by Shubhangi Jain

AUGUST IN ASIAN HISTORY

Dr Chaitra C

India celebrates commemorates 75 years of independence this August. Likewise, many other Asian countries gained independence in August: India (15 August, 1947), Pakistan (14 August, 1947), South and North Korea (15 August, 1947), Afghanistan (recognised on 19 August 1919), Malaysia (9 August 1957), Singapore (9 August 1965), Uzbekistan (31 August 1991), Indonesia (17 August 1945) and Ukraine (24 August 1991).

AUGUST 1

1834- Slavery abolished in British Empire by the Slavery Abolition Act 1833.

1900- Chinese Boxer Rebellion occurs, wherein the Chinese fight Europeans.

AUGUST 2

1858- British Parliament transfers powers over India from East India Company to the Crown.

AUGUST 3

2009- Grave ethnic violence in Xinjiang results in detention of 319 people.

2016- Pushpa Kamal Dahal, Chairman of Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist Center) is elected 39th Prime Minister of Nepal.

AUGUST 4

1975- Japanese Red Army takes more than 50 hostages at the AIA building housing several embassies in Kuala Lumpur.

AUGUST 5

1944- Biggest prison breakout in history- 545 Japanese Prisoners of War (POWs) attempt to escape outside the town of Cowra, Australia

2011- Yingluck Shinawatra elected first female Prime Minister of Thailand.

AUGUST 6

1945- Atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima resulting in immediate and belated 140,000 deaths.

1991- Doi Takako becomes Japan's first female speaker of the House of Representatives.

AUGUST 7

1955- Pakistan Prime Minister Muhammad Ali Bogra is forced to resign by the new Governor General Iskander Mirza

2008- Malaysian opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim is charged on sodomy.

2009- Pakistan's most wanted Taliban leader Baitullah Mehsud is killed by a US missile.

8 AUGUST

1967- ASEAN is established at Bangkok by Malaysia, Indonesia, The Phillipines, Singapore and Thailand.

1988- The 8888 Uprising occurs in Burma. Students, Burmese citizens and Buddhist monks protested for the restoration of democracy.

9 AUGUST

1945- Atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki by the US killed about 70,000 people.

10 AUGUST

1945- Japan announces its surrender following Nagasaki atomic bombing on the condition that the status of Emperor Hirohito would remain unchanged.

2011- China's first aircraft carrier begins sea trials, a symbolic step in asserting its presence in Pacific waters.

11 AUGUST

1961- The former Portuguese territories Dadra and Nagar Haveli are merged to create a Union Territory in India.

2009- Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, pro-democracy leader of Burma is sentenced to three-year hard labour for violating terms of her house arrest.

12 AUGUST

1977- Riots spring up in Sri Lanka, targeting the minority Tamilians, a month after United National Party came to power.

2002- Talks between North and South Korea begins at Seoul resulting in the reopening of roads and railways between the countries.

13 AUGUST

1960- In a rift between Soviet Union and China, Soviet Union withdraws advisors and cancels 257 technical development projects.

14 AUGUST

1281- Kublai Khan's fleet of 3500 vessels disappears in a typhoon during the second invasion of Japan.

15 AUGUST

1975- Bangladesh military coup results in the killing of President Mujibur Rehman and all the family members except Hasina Wajid.

16 AUGUST

1945- The last Chinese emperor, Puyi is captured by Soviet troops.

1946- Direct Action Day/ The Great Calcutta Killing begins in India.

17 AUGUST

1988- Pakistan's President, Zia-ul-Haq is killed in a plane crash.

2018- Imran Khan is elected the 22nd Prime Minister of Pakistan.

18 AUGUST

1227- Death of Ghengis Khan, the Mongol ruler.

1975- Insurrection in the Portuguese province of East Timor for independence.

19 AUGUST

1997- To escape the conflict between Hun Sen and Prince Norodom Ranaridh, massive influx of Cambodian refugees into Thailand occurs.

2007- Thailand approves new Constitution proposed by the military junta, paving way for elections and a civilian government.

20 AUGUST

2013- Parvez Musharraf, former military ruler of Pakistan is charged with the murder of Benazir Bhutto.

21 AUGUST

1983- Opposition leader in the Philippines, Benigno Aquino Jr. is assassinated at Manila International Airport.

2014- Thailand's junta-picked national assembly chooses coup leader, General Prayut Chan-O-Cha, as Prime Minister.

22 AUGUST

1967- The British embassy is set on fire at Beijing during the Cultural Revolution.

2015- First Lady of Cambodia's Khmer Rouge, Leng Thirith, dies while facing charges of genocide and crimes against humanity.

23 AUGUST

1765- Burmese-Siamese war (1765-1767) begins.

1958- 2nd Taiwan Strait crisis begins with the People's Liberation Army's bombarding of Quemoy.

24 AUGUST

1992- China and South Korea establish diplomatic relations.

2015- Six-clause agreement agreed between North and South Korea.

25 AUGUST

1912- The Chinese nationalist party, the Kuomintang is founded by Sun Yat-Sen.

2011- Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa announces withdrawal of emergency laws which had ruled the country for nearly 30 years.

26 AUGUST

1960- Treaty of Amity signed between China and Afghanistan.

2006- Baluchistan rebels' chief Nawab Akbar Bugti is killed in a military operation by Pakistan.

27 AUGUST

1959- Mao Zedong is replaced by Liu Shaoqi as president of the PRC.

2003- Six Party Talk begin for denuclearisation of North Korea.

28 AUGUST

1937- Japanese warships and aircraft bombing on civilian in Shanghai takes place.

29 AUGUST

1842- First Opium War ends with the signing of the Treaty of Nanking and Hong Kong becomes part of British empire.

30 AUGUST

1945- Hong Kong is liberated from Japan by British Armed Forces.

1999- East Timor chose to become independent with voting under the control of the UN.

31 AUGUST

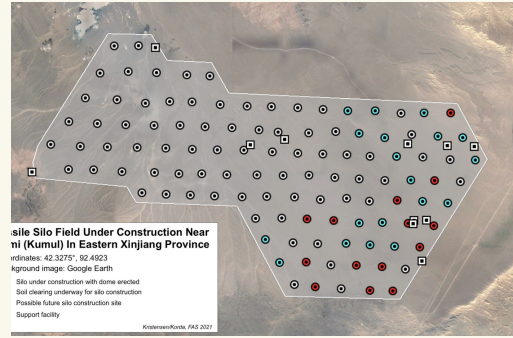
1751- British troops under Robert Clive occupy Arcot, India.

1917- Sun Yat-sen and his followers rump up Chinese parliament and establish military government. Sun Yat-sen is elected commander-in-chief.

News in Pictures



Taliban sweep across country's south, take 3 more cities. Credits: The Indian Express



China Is Building A Second Nuclear Missile Silo Field. Credits: Federation of American Scientists



Pakistan successfully test-fires surface-to-surface ballistic missile Ghaznavi on August 12, 2021. Credits: Gulfnews.com



Neeraj Chopra's javelin gold medal seals India's greatest ever Olympics. Credits: The Guardian



16th Pacific Partnership mission begins in Manila. Credits: Commander U.S. Pacific Fleet



Tokyo Olympics 2021 Opening Ceremony Highlights: Naomi Osaka lights Olympic cauldron as Tokyo Games open. Credits: Times of India



After 74 years, Pakistan is set to appoint its first female Supreme Court judge. Credits: wionews



Covid 3.0? Unprecedented rise in cases in Southeast Asian countries. Credits: India Today



Six months after coup, Myanmar's military ruler promises elections by August 2023. Credits: France24.com



In Malaysia, the black flag movement challenges the government. Credits: France 24.com

Feedback

“Sincere thanks for the excellent organization and coordination of your webinars. The last one I attended was on 21 July 2021, on “Europe and Asian Security: Strategic and Geopolitical Dilemmas” where Dr Darko Trifunovic was very candid on issues without the academic veneer and yet without bluntness or dogmatism of an activist or politician.

The pandemic has taught us one rule: No one is safe until everyone is safe. So, it is time we view security, not as Asian, European or African. A global approach is required to understand the ambitions of powerful players pushing the post-bipolar world to a quasi cold war situation. So, strengthening multilateralism in managing security is the key which makes EU’s role as an example bigger than ever. Dr. Trifunovic’s voice as a representative from South-East Europe offered a different perspective, apart from the post-bipolar binary one, allowing us to recall the non-aligned movement. Thank you once again for the great event.”

Dr. Mridula Ghosh

Board Chair, East European Development Institute, Kyiv, Ukraine

“The AAS webinars have been a constant fixture for academics and early career scholars in this past year. The AAS team, led by Prof Swaran Singh and Dr Reena Marwah, must be lauded for their untiring efforts to consistently bring forth quality debates and discussions. These webinars are an extremely relevant archive for students and academics alike.”

Saurabh Thakur

Associate Fellow at National Maritime Foundation, New Delhi

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