

Navigating Contemporary Geopolitics in Asia and the Pacific

In Asia and the Pacific, national and regional priorities are competing with contemporary geopolitical pressures...

Priorities

FOREIGN POLICY
SOVEREIGNTY AND
TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY



DOMESTIC SECURITY
(LAW AND ORDER)



REGIONAL STABILITY
(EX. BLUE PACIFIC IDENTITY,
ASEAN CENTRALITY)

COLONIAL
REPARATIONS
(NUCLEAR JUSTICE AND
ENVIRONMENTAL
REPARATIONS)



ECONOMIC
GROWTH AND
SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT



EFFECTIVE
GOVERNANCE AND
POLITICAL
STABILITY

CLIMATE ACTION
(HUMANITARIAN
ASSISTANCE AND
DISASTER
MANAGEMENT)

Pressures



INCREASED
MILITARISATION AND
ARMS RACE



MAJOR POWER
RIVALRIES AND
ALIGNMENT PRESSURES



REFUGEES DISPLACED BY
CONFLICT AND CLIMATE CHANGE



ESCALATING REGIONAL
TENSIONS (TAIWAN
STRAIT, SOUTH CHINA SEA,
KOREAN PENINSULA,
INDIA-PAKISTAN)

CONTINUED
RESOURCE
EXPLOITATION
AND DEPLETION

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION
AND WMD THREATS

...which brings challenges and opportunities.

Challenges

RESOURCE
SCARCITY



THREATS TO
REGIONAL
SOLIDARITY

DEBT
TRAPS

MILITARISED
POLICY RHETORIC



DIPLOMATIC
CONSTRAINTS



NUCLEAR BREAKOUT
PRESSURES

Opportunities

LEVERAGING BIG
POWER INTERESTS

MODERNISING
NATIONAL
SECURITY
CAPABILITIES



ATTRACTING
INVESTMENTS AND
ASSISTANCE

INTEGRATING LOCAL
AND REGIONAL
PRIORITIES



BUILDING
PARTNERSHIPS

How can states in Asia and the Pacific balance these pressures and priorities?

ASSERT NATIONAL AND
REGIONAL PREFERENCES
and hold big powers accountable
for their policies and actions



BUILD LOCAL CAPACITIES
by investing in human-centric
discourses and education

SHARE EXPERIENCES
AND BEST PRACTICES
on good governance and
maritime security, HADR, etc



HIGHLIGHT PACIFIC PERSPECTIVES
IN ASIA-PACIFIC AND GLOBAL
SECURITY DEBATES
and foster more geopolitical
awareness and expertise in the PICs

PRIORITISE
REGIONAL STABILITY
through multilateralism and
meaningful partnerships



STRENGTHEN REGIONAL
(ASIA AND PACIFIC) INTERLINKAGES
through dialogues and
Track II diplomacy



PUSH FOR REFORMS IN
INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL
INSTITUTIONS
and thereby correct
entrenched imbalances

This infographic is based on a roundtable on Asia-Pacific Geopolitics and the US-China Strategic Competition, with experts from the Asia-Pacific, conducted as part of APLN's project on Voices from the Pacific Island Countries. The project is supported by the Ploughshares Fund.