

MAJOR TURNING POINTS IN VIET NAM'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS THINKING OVER 40 YEARS OF DOI MOI

Dương Văn Quảng

The evolution of Viet Nam's foreign affairs thinking is driven by a renewed understanding of how to assess and forecast global dynamics and the shift in international relations. This has led to the redefinition and re-evaluation of international actors, the recalibration of foreign policy objectives, and the adjustment of the contents and means of implementation of diplomatic strategies. Over the past 40 years, Viet Nam's foreign affairs thinking has primarily centered on enhancing perceptions in various areas, including the identification of "partners for cooperation" and "objects of struggle", international integration and multilateral diplomacy, as well as safeguarding national interests, security, and defense.

THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL ISSUES OF NEIGHBOUR DIPLOMACY IN THE WORLD AND IMPLICATIONS FOR VIET NAM

Nguyễn Trường Giang - Nguyễn Hùng Sơn

Neighbour diplomacy constitutes a vital component in the implementation of a nation's foreign policy, both in theoretical and practical dimensions. For Viet Nam, a country with over 4.500 kilometers of land borders and an extensive maritime area, relations with

neighboring countries remain a top priority in its foreign policy. Throughout its history and during the current period of Renovation (Doi Moi), generations of Vietnamese leaders have consistently emphasized the effective implementation of neighbour diplomacy. This article provides an overview of the theoretical foundations of neighbour diplomacy in international relations while assessing the approaches and practical implementation of neighbour diplomacy of various countries worldwide. Based on these insights, the article proposes several implications for Viet Nam in promoting its neighbour diplomacy in the current setting.

THE EAST SEA SITUATION IN 2024 AND FORECAST FOR 2025

Đỗ Hoàng

In 2024, the East Sea (South China Sea) witnesses notable developments in multiple domains. Key claimants clarified their maritime claims and promoted "transparency" regarding on-site occurrences. The scope of confrontation has escalated compared to 2023, especially when the Chinese and Philippine forces have continuously "clashed" at Second Thomas Shoal, Scarborough Shoal, Sabina Shoal and Iroquois Reef. Looking ahead to 2025, it is anticipated that "gray zone" activities will continue both on the ground and within legal and informational areas. The South China Sea is expected to remain associated with other maritime regions or international "hot spots" via the rule of law and norm establishment, prominently influenced by major powers.

THE ROLE OF ASEAN IN PREVENTING CONFLICTS IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA: A DISCOURSE ANALYSIS OF JOINT COMMUNIQUEs OF ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETINGS

Hoàng Vũ Nam - Nguyễn Thị Hạnh

This paper presents an attempt to examine the role of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in preventing conflicts in the South China Sea among regional countries. Based on the concept of an early warning mechanism and discourse analysis of ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meetings Joint Communiqué's from 2009 to 2024, the study argues that ASEAN has sent clear messages on the risks of conflict in the contested sea and proposes specific diplomatic measures to alleviate tensions.

ON THE EMERGING FEATURES OF THE EVOLVING WORLD ORDER

Nguyễn Văn Tuấn

As we progress into the 21st century, especially from the year 2010 onward, the global landscape has experienced many changes and complex developments. Alongside the prominent features of the contemporary era, the world order is beginning to reveal itself and increasingly showcase new characteristics that have exerted a significant impact on the security and development of nations and people worldwide, shaping the new world order characterized by "multipolarity

and multiple centers". This article aims to clarify perspectives, theories, and observations regarding the new world order, while identifying and exploring its distinctive characteristics.

THE ALTERNATIVE FOR GERMANY (AfD) PARTY IN GERMAN POLITICS DURING THE RUSSIA - UKRAINE CONFLICT

Bùi Gia Kỳ

The Russia - Ukraine conflict, which broke out in February 2022, has disrupted the evolving world order, already fractured and strained by the US - China rivalry and the Covid-19 pandemic. The conflict results from a complicated escalation of tensions following Russia's annexation of the Crimean Peninsula and its support for the militias' activities in Eastern Ukraine since 2014. In Europe, the Russia - Ukraine conflict has facilitated the rise of far-right political parties. In Germany, the conflict has promoted the role of the Alternative for Germany (AfD) party in German politics. During the conflict, the AfD party have carried out various activities that aimed at opposing German's military funding for and interference in Ukraine, thereby increasingly influencing the dynamics of German domestic politics.

**THE UNITED NATIONS' WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY
AGENDA: IMPLEMENTATION AND PROSPECT**

Trì Trung - Nguyễn Phương Anh

In 2000, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 1325, which laid the foundation for the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda. WPS aimed to protect women and girls who were victims of war and conflict; enhance women's participation in peace and security building; and promote gender equality, ensuring sustainable peace and security. WPS has received widespread support from the international political community, and has been translated into National Action Plans (NAPs) of various countries and UN-led mechanisms. These efforts resulted in many achievements, most notably a profound change in the global perception of women's crucial roles in peace and security. Yet, there remain many political, historical, and cultural barriers that hindered the success of WPS implementation, resulting in outcomes that fell short of projections.

**THE ROLE OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS
IN GLOBAL GOVERNANCE: THE CASE OF CLIMATE
GOVERNANCE**

Doãn Mai Linh - Nguyễn Trúc Mai

In the context of increasingly urgent and complex global issues, global governance has become a platform for coordinating international

efforts to address issues of shared concern and maintain global peace and stability. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have demonstrated their crucial role through flexible activities, both within and outside the frameworks of international intergovernmental institutions, thereby advancing global governance beyond the limitations of nation-states and international organizations. In particular, in the face of complex challenges such as climate change, these NGOs further assert their significant role in framing issues relating to climate governance and supporting nations in implementing policies.

**THE DRIVERS AND CHALLENGES OF CHINA'S
BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA:
A FOREIGN POLICY ANALYSIS PERSPECTIVE**

Nguyễn Tăng Nghị - Nguyễn Cẩm Tú

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is a prominent foreign policy of China since President Xi Jinping came to power. Since its inception, the BRI has brought China significant opportunities, such as infrastructure development and trade promotion. However, it also presents several challenges, including concerns over national sovereignty from some regional countries, fears of public debt, and security threats. Based on the Foreign Policy Analysis (FPA) framework, this study assesses the drivers as well as those challenges confronting the BRI in Southeast Asia so as to provide insights into its impact on the region.

**NATIONAL ROLE AND IDENTITY IN IR STUDIES:
THEORY, PRACTICE AND PROSPECT**

Nguyễn Hoàng Như Thanh - Hoàng Thị Phương Thảo

Since K. Holsti introduced role theory to the discipline of international relations (IR) in 1970, the concept has continued to develop within the field. Numerous scholars argue that role theory has made significant contributions to the study of foreign policy analysis as well as to the development of international relations theories, especially regarding the agent-structure dilemma. However, recent studies have struggled to fully address this issue due to the lack of differentiation between the agent and structure components of “role”. This article proposes an identity - role framework which clarifies the dialectical relationship between identity and role and thereby offering a pathway for further development of role theory.

**POWER DIFFUSION AND THE RISE OF CONTESTED
MULTILATERALISM IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS FROM
2010 TO THE PRESENT**

Nguyễn Thị Lệ Hà - Đỗ Thị Thủy

Since the 2009 global financial crisis, the distribution of power in international politics has undergone significant changes. The influence of the United States and Western countries has gradually weakened, with power shifted and dispersed to other actors in international relations,

including emerging economies (BRICS), middle powers, and small states. In addition, the emergence of new non-state actors exemplifies the ongoing trend of power diffusion, in which competition between various agents in multilateral institutions and forums is increasingly robust. The article argues that power diffusion is one of the main drivers for the rise of contested multilateralism in international politics. Building on this premise, the article analyzes both the theoretical and practical implications of power diffusion on the development of contested multilateralism from 2010 to the present, thereby providing scholarly assessments and policy implications for Viet Nam.