Traditional Versus Non-Traditional Security in Japan-China Relations and East Asian Regional Cooperation

The research paper aims to contribute to the understanding of regional identity formation with regard to bilateral and multilateral security cooperation in Northeast Asia. It focuses on the two major Asian regional actors, China and Japan. Mostly centering on questions of traditional national security, Sino-Japanese relations have often been characterized as the result of a ‘power shift’, contentions about history or as a result of conflicting identities.

However, since the 1990s, processes of globalization are dramatically changing the socio-economic and political environment in East Asia. It is thus necessary to analyze bilateral and regional security cooperation comprehensively.

This paper therefore seeks to explain the linkages between questions of traditional and non-traditional security in Sino-Japanese relations. The study evaluates Sino-Japanese policy coordination through bilateral and multilateral channels in the areas of maritime security and energy security against the background of their overall security-political relationship since 1990.

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