A presentation from the Public Policy in the ‘Asian Century’
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Public Policy in the ‘Asian Century’:
Advancing opportunities, meeting challenges, preparing for change

Claudia Astarita Italian Military Centre for Strategic Studies
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Claudia Astarita
Italian Military Centre for
Strategic Studies
Public Policy in the ‘Asian Century’: setting context, goals and strategies to raise effectiveness containing risk and uncertainty

• Context > Borders
• Asian borders: undefined
• Asian Century: Asia at the centre of main political, economic, strategic and social evolutions and trends BUT borders remain undefined
• Which country belong to Asia? EA; SEA; PC; SA.
Public Policy in the ‘Asian Century’: setting context, goals and strategies to raise effectiveness containing risk and uncertainty

• Goals & Strategies > Diversity & Conflicting Priorities
• BUT: Diversity is there to stay
  • Consensus: scapegoat
  • Concerted action and compromise are utopian
• Asian success story > regional integration: HOW rather than WHAT
• Driving forces of integration:
  • Political: protection & counterbalancing
  • Economic and financial pressures
• Here is why Asia accumulated political, economic and military power (Asian Century)
• BUT: today these strategies are obsolete, ineffective and risky
Asian strategies

• Political perspective: Asian counterbalancing failed
  • O: no more local countries to approach
  • I: no stable BoP achieved
  • R: BoP is needed

• Economic perspective:
  • O: isolated region cannot be self-sustainable in a globalized world
  • I: global interaction today is more needed than anytime before
  • R: the big powers of Asia have internal problems > reliability
Asia in the ‘Asian Century’

• Diversity + Old strategies
• More and more countries focus on Asia
  • Global: new strategic issues at stake
  • Local: sustainable development
  • Despite diversity, the region will remain united because of the ‘AC’
  • BUT: ‘real’ policies remain problematic
• Regional goals and priorities:
  • Focus on economy (development & social unrest)
  • Exploit local complementarities
  • Put national priorities, problems, skills, difficulties on the table and look for regional help
The ‘Asian Century’ impact on regional goals and priorities

• Is global interference helping to consolidate an even more unstable background? > “Choice” pressures and expectations (Fake walls)

• Complicated background: what should Asia do? How to generate a good system & program of regional government?
  • Stable BoP: fundamental to contain and manage diversity
    • Provided by the US vs provided by less defined cross-alliances
  • Go back to the idea of putting priorities, problems and expertise on the table to find mutual support in the region.
    • Multi-speed integration; cross-sectional cooperation, issue linkage to overcome regional diversity and lack of maturity and trust
    • Economic & social YES; politics & strategy too difficult
The ‘Asian Century’ impact on regional goals and priorities

• Find a common goal among a smaller group of countries (exploiting ‘AC’ borders, fluid cooperation patterns)
  • Real although small results
  • Push skeptical countries to do the same
  • Create a virtuous multi-layer context for integration

• What if a country decides to stay behind?

• How to influence Public Policy in the ‘Asian Century’?
  • Identify simple; not risky; easy to compromise on; mutually beneficial areas of cooperation among small group of countries.