

Conference Paper
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Between Scylla and Charybdis: Is there a Middle Path for Middle Powers in the
Indo-Pacific Region?
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Paper Title: Competing Ideas on Asia/Indo-Pacific: Competition or Collaboration

Synopsis: There was an historical pattern of two-track interaction among Asian civilizations over the Pacific and Indian Oceans since the ancient time. Along with the colonial expansion from the West, this traditional linkages among the nations in Asia had been cut off and the situation was so deteriorated in the Cold War era that the peoples stood off and fought with each other. At the beginning of the 21st century, the East Asian Economic Community-building has been set as a long-term goal in the process of regional integration. But the countries in the Asia-Pacific region might face the risk of being torn into the confronting Indo-Pacific framework. China's "Belt and Road Initiative" will encourage Asian nations to resume their traditional interaction in pattern of spiral evolution of history. All the regional actors eventually might adopt their rational strategic choices, so as to evolve from the various definitions of the Indo-Pacific contradiction to the Asia-Indo-Pacific transregional collaboration.

Keywords: Asia-Pacific region, Indo-Pacific region, China's Belt and Road Initiative, Historical pattern of Asian civilization, competition Collaboration