

The continuity and changes in China's perception of the international order / Shinji Yamaguchi

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Abstrak

China's perception of the international order has been consistent on three points. Firstly, China believes that the international order is based on the power and interests of major countries, and that the existing order is the hegemonistic order imposed by the United States. Secondly, China argues that aspects of the aforementioned international order are unfair and unreasonable, and must be reformed. Thirdly, when discussing the international order, China will without fail refer to the Charter of the United Nations and the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. Article 2 of the U.N. Charter and the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence provide for equality among sovereign states, noninterference in internal affairs, and peaceful coexistence of differing political regimes, and they are of vital importance for China, which sees the continuation of the administration of the Communist Party as an overriding imperative. While China's aforementioned perception of the international order has remained largely consistent, China has in the past displayed passive resistance to the international order or participated only passively in it. Amid a shift in the balance of power, however, arguments calling for greater participation and communication in the existing international order are gradually gaining ground in China. Moreover, there has also emerged an argument for China's involvement in the restructuring and development of the international order. At present, however, China has yet to generate new norms or values that are universally acceptable. The shift in the relative balance of power has lent momentum to the formation of a new international order, and it is expected that China will assert itself more strongly going forward.