

Partially Hierarchical Security Order in East Asia and China's Rise

Prof. Sun Xuefeng

Tsinghua University

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After the Cold War ended there was an obvious change in the regional East Asian order. Defining the security order in East Asia has nevertheless since remained a matter for debate. The post-Cold War East Asian security order can be defined as a partially hierarchic order, under which the East Asian security system comprises a hierarchic security system (U.S. alliance network) and several self-help states (China, North Korea, Vietnam and others). Security competition between the U.S.-led regional hierarchic security system and East Asian self-help states countries constitute the core contradiction of this partially hierarchic system.

As the most powerful self-help states in the partially hierarchic security order, a rising China faces the most obvious security pressure. On the one hand, China needs to moderate the security pressures exerted by the U.S. hierarchic security system. On the other, China wants to alleviate the security competitions with other regional self-help states. In the face of increasing regional security pressure, China needs to fully understand the nature and mechanism of the partial hierarchic security order in East Asia and adopt various policies to regional states security for create based on the ways of East Asia's countries to seek security and its primary threat.



Department of Government and Public Administration
Faculty of Social Sciences