

The EU and the Indo-Pacific: navigating power politics

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- > The Indo-Pacific: a theatre of power politics
 - > Geographic, strategic and normative dimensions
- > Time for “middle power diplomacy”
 - > Stability, legitimacy, and functional cooperation
- > What role for the EU?
 - > Maritime Security, Connectivity, Africa
- > Stepping up EU-Japan cooperation

The Indo-Pacific

A theatre of power politics

The Indo-Pacific: importance for Europe

Economic

1,5 trillion EUR
two-way trade
between EU -
Asia in 2018

EU's 2nd trading
partner, EU
China's 1st

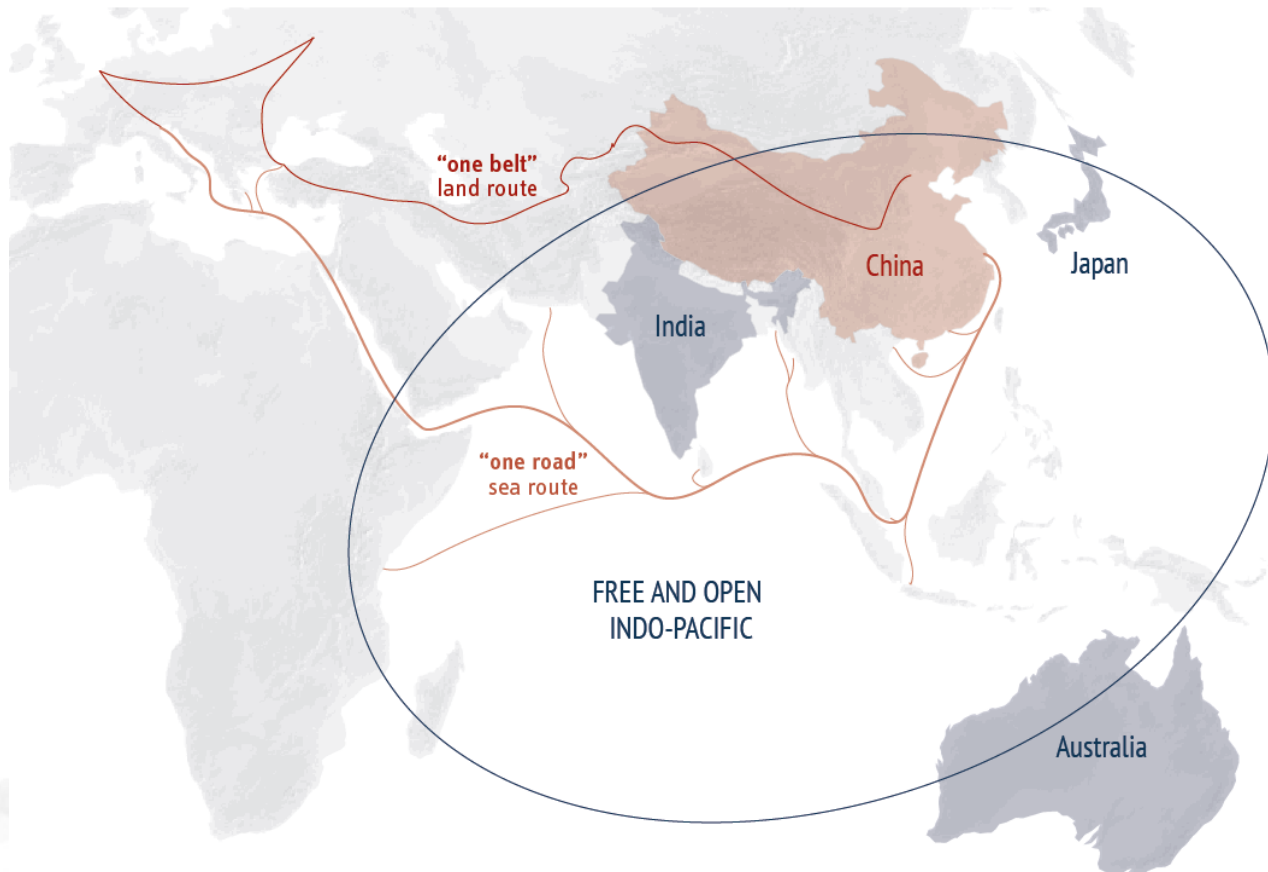
EU-Japan
trade
25% of
global GDP

EU's 3rd trading
partner, ASEAN
EU's 2nd; largest
FDI recipients

Shifting strategic balance:

- West-ward (IO, ME, Africa, Europe)
- Sea-ward (connecting Indian Ocean + Pacific Ocean)
- Focus on functional trade & connectivity
- Europe back on the map

The Indo-Pacific: a theatre of power politics



- Strategic rivalry between China and *status quo* powers
- New "Cold War"/ Thucides trap"
- Neglect of existing multilateral structures (ARF, IORA)
- Neglect of non-traditional security, good governance/ cooperative security

“Free and Open Indo-Pacific” (different meaning to different actors)

- > **Free**
 - > Respect of sovereignty of all actors
 - > Free trade
- > **Open**
 - > Freedom of Navigation (FON)
 - > Connectivity
- > **Rules-based order**
 - > Access to all/ non-discrimination
 - > Rule of Law

Time for “middle power diplomacy”

Time for “middle power diplomacy”

- Trade tensions
- Historical alliance
- Divergences on multilateralism and global security issues

Europe

- Strategic cautiousness
- Economic engagement
- Political engagement on some issues (climate change, JCPOA, multilateralism)

US

China

- Trade war
- Strategic competition

Middle power diplomacy:

- Multilateral solutions to international problems
- Compromise in disputes (mediation, preventive diplomacy, UN peacekeeping)
- Adherence to international norms (human security, respect of intl. law, institutions and conventions – including environmental issues, climate change etc.)
- Preservation of a rules-based global order as an essential prerequisite for global stability

Stabilising

- > Support of multilateralism (contain power politics) and cooperative security

Legitimising

- > governance institutions and rules-based order

Focus on practical cooperation

- > Operational cooperation, capacity-building (non-proliferation, crisis prevention, peacekeeping, functional non-traditional security, etc.)

What role for the EU ?

Boost since 2016...

- > **Greater strategic autonomy**
 - > Security and defence integration (PESCO, EDF) – shift from civilian power status
- > **More ambitious foreign and security policy**
 - > EUGS 2016 : willingness to step up as a global security provider
- > **Normative added value**
 - > Defender of rules-based order & values, multilateralism, cooperative security, climate change, ocean governance
- > **Functional security cooperation**
 - > MSA/ MDA, law-enforcement/ constabulary, non-proliferation, CBRN, connectivity

Concrete avenues:

- > **Maritime Security**
 - > FON South China Sea
 - > Strait of Hormuz?
 - > Ocean Governance, maritime multilateralism
- > **Connectivity**
 - > Economic, social and environmental sustainability
 - > Transparency
 - > Rule of law
- > **Africa**
 - > Historical, diplomatic ties
 - > Development, crisis prevention

EU – Japan cooperation

Strategic Partnership Agreement (July 2018)

- > Legal framework for greater foreign and security cooperation
- > Connectivity
- > Global challenges
- > **Crisis management ?**
 - > Operational cooperation

... more to come?