

China's Middle East Policy and the Competition with the United States

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Abstract : This paper focuses on China's policy in the Middle East and the rivalry with the U.S. The question is that what are the main factors on China's Middle East policy and its competition with the U.S? The hypothesis regards to three effective factors: 'China's energy dependency' on the Middle East, 'economy' and support for 'stability' in the Middle East. What is important in China's competition with the U.S regarding to its Middle East policy is the substantial difference in ways of treating the countries of the region; China is committed to Westphalia model based on non-interference in internal affairs of the countries and respect the sovereignty of the governments. However, after 9/11, the U.S is seeking a balance between stability and change through intervention in the international affairs and in some cases is looking for a regime change. From the other hand, China, due to its dependency on the region's energy welcomes America's military presence in the region for providing stability. The authors by using a descriptive analytical method try to explain the situation of rivalry between China and the United States in Middle East. China is an 'emerging power' with high economic growth and in demand of more energy supply. The problem is that a rising power in the region is often a source of concern for hegemony.

Keywords : China's foreign policy, energy, hegemony, the Middle East

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