

## China's Role in Promoting Regionalism in East Asia in Post-Maoist Era: An Analysis through Uneven and Combined Development

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**Abstract :** China was considered as a revisionist state by the countries of East Asia during Maoist era; but China's role changed from a revisionist state to a constructive member of East Asian Community in post-Maoist era. This research will mainly investigate the two phenomena: what were reasons of behavioral change of China in East Asia and what role has China played to promote regionalism in East Asia since Open Door Policy of Deng Xiaoping. To understand these two phenomena, this study applies the international relations theory of Uneven and Combined Development (U&CD). The central finding of this study is that 'whip of external necessity' posed by the Western dominance during the Chinese 'century of ignominy' resulted in a Maoist regime in China in 1948 which was hostile to its neighbors due to ideological tensions. Maoist regime in China could not solve the challenges posed by the 'international'; therefore after Mao's death, a new economic approach was introduced in China to deal with the challenges postured by the 'international'. Due to Deng Xiaoping's 'Open Door Policy' era, China used its 'privilege of historic backwardness' and witnessed unprecedented economic growth. As the societies are multiple and exist in real time, therefore interaction among societies is pertinent. Export oriented domestic policy pushed China to concentrate less on class struggle and improve its relations with its neighbors in East Asia. As China soon become a global hub of trade after market oriented reforms, therefore friendly relations with the states of East Asia was pertinent. This study will investigate Chinese role in regionalism in East Asia in three area: Chinese role in promoting regionalism in East Asia, China's role in economic integration in East Asia and China's role in combatting terrorism in East Asia. This study will be divided in two section. The first section will deal with the transformation in Chinese behavior in East Asia in post Maoist era, and the second section will analyze China's role in East Asia by looking at Chinese role in institutional mechanism, economic integration and combatting terrorism in East Asia.

**Keywords :** East Asia, regionalism, institutionlism, economic integration

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