

Talk on

# China's Strategy towards Indian Ocean: Where is Xi Jinping Leading China to?

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## Abstract

Will China be different as it always says which distinguish itself from those Great Powers in history extend and exert their influence as the Realists try to persuade the whole world? In the lecture's view, China is just as same as those Great Powers in history. To further analyze, the biggest difference among them is that China constructs its empire in a very sophisticated way, which contains two principle, 'mixing the false with the genuine'(虛虛實實) and 'when water flows, a channel is formed' (水到渠成).

For the time being, China aggressively exerts its economic power and closely intertwined trade relationship (or 'common prosperity' strategy) to persuade the others to be cooperative and believe that 'China is not a threat' as well, while it's just one last mile away from being a qualified Great Power. What China has done constitute a unique and challenging model to the whole world, a 'China's Model', which differentiates China's hegemonic behavior from the others.

The '21<sup>st</sup> Century Maritime Road' initiated by President Xi Jinping in 2013 is a very much concrete signal to India, even to the countries around this Region, that China is planning to have stronghold in the Indian Ocean more than ever before. Besides, while keeping appealing to peace and security, China announced a white paper on its defense strategy in May 2015, "**Chinese Military Strategy**", in that it clarifies not only Chinese PLA's tasks in the coming years but also stresses that maritime power struggles will keep lasting. The most interesting is this white paper also witnesses China's first-time announcement of 'overseas stake-holding area' (海外利益攸關區), which helps to reveal China's possible intervention in those regions China has invested a lot, including the sea lanes cross the Indian Ocean, and even the Ocean itself.

In sum, China will be more and more inclined to extend this model all over the world, Indian Ocean is of course included. By mixing the economic cooperation and promotion with the countries in this region, as same as 'One Road' initiative is planning, China will finally transform its influence into more solid power countering those 'potential' enemies, including the US, Japan and India.

## CV & Background



Dr. Chi-shin Chang is now an Assistant Research Fellow of the Center for Asia Policy, National Tsing Hua University (NTHU), also serves as adjunct assistant professor in the same university. He entered NTHU in 2012 and took charge of the education-oriented project of the University System of Taiwan, which is composed of four member universities, including National Yang-Ming University, National Central University, National Chiao Tung University and NTHU.

Dr. Chang served as Research Fellow in Taiwan Foundation for Democracy (2003-2008). Prior to that, he was an Assistant Research Fellow at the Division of Strategic and International and in Taiwan Research Institute (1999-2003).

Dr. Chang defended his PhD in 2011. His dissertation has been published in 2014, entitled as *'International Security Institution's Intervention in Ethnic Conflict'*. His expertise is on international security studies, international relations theories, conflict resolution, also Northeast Asia regional security studies. Now he's trying to focus his research on South Asia/India studies. He has published several academic articles on different journals, including *Review of Global Politics*, *Chang Gung Journal of Humanities and Social Science*, *Strategy and Security Analyses*.