
Introduction

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Biographical notes: Rosita Dellios is an Associate Professor of International Relations at Bond University.

Noel Gaston completed a Doctorate in Economics at Cornell University. He has worked at universities in Australia, the USA, Germany, Canada and Japan. Currently, he is a Professor of Economics and the Director of Globalisation and Development Centre in the School of Business at Bond University. Research on the effects of globalisation on labour markets is an underlying theme of much of his research. In 2008, he coauthored the book *Measuring Globalisation* with Axel Dreher and Pim Martens. In recent years, his research interests have also focused on Asia-oriented issues.

The Globalisation and Development Centre at Bond University hosted the conference 'How globalisation is shaping the Asia-Pacific: multi-disciplinary perspectives' in September 2008. The conference was an initiative to further understanding and cooperation in the rapidly changing Asia-Pacific region and brought many prominent national and international speakers to Queensland's Gold Coast. Some of the many issues discussed were the various implications of the move to regionalism and the retreat from multilateralism, recent trends in global law and governance and global security. The articles in this special issue focus on international relations and globalisation.

How globalisation is shaping the Asia-Pacific region from the perspective of international relations has yielded both predictable and unexpected insights. It will come as no surprise that its negative side-effects include enhanced capabilities for transnational crime, terrorism and nuclear proliferation. The positive effects of globalisation, however, are such that regional cooperation is proceeding at an unprecedented scale, binding together rich and poor nations, the weak and strong, and providing the venue for accommodating former foes or unaccustomed allies. Moscow and Beijing were Cold War adversaries until 1989. Today they are bound together in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. Turkey and China may be at the opposite ends of energy-rich Eurasia, but

these multi-regional states are being drawn closer by the economic, security and governance imperatives of the prevailing global era.

Although the articles in this special issue address specific concerns they have nonetheless established the broader themes of competition and cooperation, governance and trans-national lawlessness that so typify this globalised region. Jeremy Moore investigates what he sees as a realist trend: the competition for Asian hegemony by the rising powers of China and India. From the opposing perspective Rosita Dellios and Nadir Kemal Yilmaz look at regional cooperation as the leitmotif of Asian international relations. To Moore's realist perspective they pit social constructivism that focuses on norm formation and process. They also display an affinity with the Chinese theory of correlativity in that relations are mutually constitutive.

In the modern environment of internationalisation, Owen Morgan investigates the impact of intellectual property rights harmonisation on South Pacific states. He illustrates a delicate balancing act for the less developed of these states – the need to upgrade and enforce higher standards and the possibility of gaining trade concessions from the major developed countries. The quest for nuclear governance, so relevant to nuclear rivals India and Pakistan, as well as the Korean peninsula, is explored by Joseph Siracusa. He presents a blueprint for more effective compliance with international nuclear non-proliferation.

Ryan Clarke's investigation of the nexus between crime and terrorism in South Asia reveals a menacing underworld that snakes around institutional efforts to improve global and human security. Indeed, the boundaries between the state and organised crime are not always clear or necessarily the norm. Clarke reveals this through the relationship between India's largest criminal syndicate – Dawood Ibrahim's D-Company which operates primarily in Mumbai, Karachi and Dubai – and Pakistan's inter-services intelligence (ISI). As Clarke observes: "Pakistan looks to criminal syndicates such as D-Company to transport mostly Chinese weapons into IHK [Indian-Held Kashmir] much as Islamabad used syndicates to transfer black market nuclear technology on behalf of A. Q. Khan and to smuggle weapons into Punjab".

The tale of the infamous Pakistani atomic scientist, Dr A.Q. Khan, is taken up by Siracusa who shows that even the relationship between states can cross the boundaries of legality. He explains that international trafficking of atomic technology and materials was performed through a highly sophisticated network of supply and production. It spread "from Pakistan to Libya, North Korea, Iran, Malaysia, and elsewhere". When it was shut down it had immediate effects: Libya's nuclear ambitions were destroyed and it publicly renounced becoming a nuclear power.

Together, these articles, within their ambit of investigation, paint a coherent even if complex picture of globalisation's impact in the vast geo-strategic region of the Asia-Pacific. It is one that stretches from the Middle East – Istanbul in Turkey even has an Asia-Europe boundary – down through the Indian sub-continent, east to Eurasia which encompasses the Caspian Sea basin and Central Asia, across to East Asia with its history of economic prowess and over to Australia and New Zealand and the fledgling Pacific island states to the Americas.

Under the impact of globalisation, the region is more than a geographical expression, with political, economic, cultural, criminal and other forces impacting on its affairs. Moreover, with the USA, Russia, China and India residing within the Asia-Pacific region, it is home to present and future great powers. It is also the site of the world's greatest concentration of energy resources (the Middle East and Central Asia), Islamic

fundamentalism's spiritual heartland (Afghanistan and its border with Pakistan), present and potential conflict flashpoints (such as the contested territory of Jammu and Kashmir and the nuclear saga of North Korea), recognised nuclear capabilities (the USA, Russia, China, India and Pakistan) and massive economic power (the USA, China and Japan). Importantly, it is not only state actors that play their role on the regional stage but non-state actors too, ranging from terrorist organisations to humanitarian and environmentalist ones. Added to this mix is an overlay of values systems, be they liberal democracy, Confucian capitalism, human rights advocacy or Asian diplomacy characterised by consensus-building.

The 'absences' in the region can be just as instructive by way of summation as its statistical enormities across many sectors. The absence of effective law enforcement – and compliance strategies for nuclear non-proliferation – has meant a flourishing of corruption and a crime-terror nexus through vast swathes of the region. An absence of economic development alongside newly enriched regions has led to politically volatile fault-lines, especially within nations. At the same time, new experiments in regional organisation are countering the trend towards conflict and fragmentation. Indeed, a new round of the Great Game in Eurasia may be circumvented by regional cooperation in which the potential rivals are bound in common security. These are the positive values of the interdependence that has come from global flows; though containment of the negative side-effects must necessary continue, much like the yin and yang of East Asian thought. This symbol for dynamic balance has itself globalised, showing rather graphically how the Asia-Pacific region is also shaping globalisation and not only the other way round. China and later India will in all probability emerge as defining global powers this century. They will be supported by a technologically powerful Japan and a diffused rather than conspicuously dominant American presence. From the perspective of international relations the Asia-Pacific region may well occupy centre stage in terms of political innovation in security, regional cooperation and governance. This would represent a correlative East-West shift towards a globalisation with Asian characteristics.