

ABSTRACT

Explaining the Asian Century from the Perspective of International Political Economy

By

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The Asian Century is a vague and ambiguous term that commonly describes an expected shift from a Western-centric World Order towards an Asian-centric World Order. Although the Asian Century as a term still includes many unknown variables, the idea of such is commonly praised with connotations of excitement amongst scholars and state actors in the Indo-Pacific region.

Amidst this wave of optimistic notions, this paper seeks to identify a more mundane viewpoint on the Asian Century discourse by adding valuable insights from the perspective of British International Political Economy (IPE) and the neo-Gramscian Italian School.

More specifically, this research invites the reader to gain an unprecedented approach to the Asian Century discourse from a politico-economic standpoint with accounts to pan-Asian hegemonic tendencies. An analysis has been conducted, which benchmarks the Asian Century against the neo-Gramscian concept of a counter-hegemony. Furthermore, the analysis reflects on potential implications concerning flawed economic cooperation and economic nationalism across the Indo-Pacific.

Research results reveal that the Asian Century is full of globalist and capitalist dogma. From a neo-Gramscian perspective, the Asian Century may qualify for a counter-hegemony, however, due to lacking consensus, and legitimacy, it does not qualify for a new historic bloc. Lastly, economic cooperation and economic nationalism in Asia display dividedness. As for such, a unitary Asian construct like the Asian Century seems improbable.

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