

Overview of Global NATO Implications in Asia-Pacific

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Overview:

This webinar aims to deepen the analysis of NATO's presence in the region, explore the intersectionality of military security, geopolitics, peace, and environment, and provide insights into alternative approaches to security in the Asia-Pacific.

NATO has been extending its influence into the Asia-Pacific through political and military partnerships. NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg highlighted that Japan, South Korea, Australia, and New Zealand share security threats that could affect Europe. Despite their recent involvement, these nations have historically had little connection to NATO's traditional security agenda.

I would like to read part of Prof. Chenoy's article last August at In Depth News which clearly defines NATO's policy in the IndoPacific:

“NATO's forward policy into the Indo-Pacific frames China as the big threat and “a decisive enabler” of the Russian–Ukraine war. North Korea is the second US target here because of its new military partnership with Russia. This is leading to changes in the military–security landscape. The US/NATO's method in the Indo-Pacific theatre is to fuse itself onto existing regional tensions that were earlier bilaterally handled. These tensions include those between the Philippines and China; North and South Korea; Vietnam and China; India and China and so on. NATO's scheme is to superimpose its own agenda here by creating intersecting networks of military agreements like Australia, United Kingdom, US (AUKUS) that will provide Australia with nuclear submarines;

additional US bases and military arrangements in the Philippines that will bring Japanese and Australian troops as the Philippines' relations with China deteriorate; the South Korea–Japan–US triad that puts South Korea in a US-led extended deterrence called “the Korean Three-axis system” with a first strike pre-emptive strategy that targets North Korea. (2) In response, North Korea has signed a military agreement with Russia. Russia has the option to assert its role as an Indo-Pacific power and as a strategic partner to China and North Korea. Indo-Pacific is on a dangerous path of militarisation.”

NATO's growing presence in the Asia Pacific region is intensifying military tensions and reshaping security dynamics. By positioning China as a major threat and targeting North Korea for its ties with Russia, NATO and the US are inserting themselves into regional conflicts previously managed bilaterally. This includes providing Australia with nuclear submarines, establishing US bases in the Philippines thru the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement, and involving Japanese and Australian troops.

NATO's \$1.34 trillion military expansion last year resulted in 233 million metric tonnes of CO₂ emissions, worsening the climate crisis. The Transnational Institute (TNI) warns that this spending increases emissions, diverts funds from climate action, and fuels instability. Despite the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)'s call for a 43% emissions reduction by 2030, NATO's emissions rose by 15% in 2023 and is expected to continue this trend.

We deeply appreciate the presence of our panel of speakers today as they each bring us valuable information, analyses and energies from the frontline of their resistance, all of them coming from hotpots of militarism and peoples resistance in Asia and the Pacific.