

# ABSTRACTS

## Asia: The consequences for Spain in the context of Europe

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The resurgence of some of the main Asian powers will unquestionably bring significant consequences for Europe and also, naturally, for Spain. The emergence of countries such as China and India is already producing major changes in the geographical distribution of international trade and direct investment. The figures show that the volume of trade between Asia and Europe is growing steadily, as is the trade deficit of European countries as a whole to the Asian giant, a dynamic of "risk" in which Spain is by no means an exception. While until now businessmen have viewed China's emergence as a threat, this article stresses the opportunity that it entails; an opportunity to exploit new markets and sectors, as well as an opportunity to identify the effects that provide Asia's emerging powers with an unbeatable competitiveness which, as we can see, is enabling them to respond more effectively to the recent financial crisis.

*Key words: Asia, China, Europe, Spain, trade, economy, globalisation.*

## East Asia's energy needs: The impact on security and guidelines for regional governance

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The last three decades have witnessed a spectacular (and not easily sustainable) increase in the global demand for energy. This trend has a particular significance in East Asia owing to its heavy industrialisation, which is promoting intense regional growth, on top of the already

delicate balance of security in the region and the traditional refusal by the region's states to delegate power and management to supranational bodies. The aim of this article is to analyse the impact of East Asia's energy needs on security and on the instruments of order and governance that have been developed in the region up until the present time. Thus, the article is divided into two parts; the first analyses East Asia's energy programme and its most significant features: 1) a high dependence on oil imports from other regions, especially the Middle East; 2) a persistence of high dependency on pollutant fossil fuels; and 3) a high degree of energy insecurity. Meanwhile, the second part assesses the impact of energy on regional relations in different areas of security and guidelines for regional government: 1) the securitisation of energy and of the environment; 2) the reactivation of certain maritime conflicts; 3) the transformation of certain threats, and conventional and non-conventional challenges to regional security; 4) the rise of non-state actors (mainly environmental businesses and NGOs) in East Asia's international relations; 5) the maintaining of bilateralism and the promotion of multi-lateral initiatives; and 6) the emergence of new extra-regional geopolitical links and balances.

*Key words: East Asia, energy, security, governance, international relations.*

## Asia and the world economy: "Walking on two legs (of different lengths)"

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The global imbalance that currently exists between high-income countries and medium- and low-income countries is being positively compensated for by the rapid growth of the economies of South-East Asia, as well as those of East and South Asia. In fact, viewed as a whole, the economies of China and India possess a sufficient potential to surpass the USA's economy in just a few decades, while in 2010 China has already become the second-largest economy in the world. Its enormous dynamism has been made clear, furthermore, by the speed and relative success with which these economies have succeeded in weathering and emerging from the recent global financial crisis of 2008-2009 which, however, has strongly impacted on the economies of the countries of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). In the first part of this article, the author analyses the scope of this emergency for Asia's economies and, especially, for the world economy as a whole, the centre of gravity of which has become increasingly displaced towards this region. In the second part, the author tackles the issue of trade as a motor of such development and, as a consequence of same, the

strategic competition for raw materials, in which China and India are playing an increasing role. Finally, the author notes the existence of imbalances generated by sustaining this model, such as the ones that affect trade balances, current accounts and exchange rates which, if they are not corrected, will have negative effects on developing countries, once again.

*Key words: International economy, development, crisis, trade, Asia, China*

## Risk perception: A view from China

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This article explores the concept of risk from the Chinese perspective, presenting its evolution through the course of the history of Chinese thought, from the classics up to the present, in close relation with the concept of development. In the second part, the author presents the underlying elements that have helped to shape its current form, comparing them with the substrata of the same concept in the West. The author also shows the way in which risk perception has helped to shape the guidelines of China's current transformation, such as the concept of Peaceful Emergence. Finally, the article highlights the main risks (both internal and external) that threaten the sustainability of China's development.

*Key words: China, risk perception, development, thought*

## A convenient truth? The spectre of global environmental catastrophe and sustainable development in China

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Through a critical point of view, this article analyses the debates on the sustainability of China's development. Specifically, it tackles the dual argument that development in China is not sustainable, and that it represents a direct threat to the environmental security of the rest of the world. Thus, the study argues that calling for "sustainable development" as a solution to the

environmental problem being faced by China (and, by implication, the whole world) is being used to de-politicise what is essentially a very controversial political issue that reflects certain very old concerns linked with the sustainability of modern capitalism and North-South relations. Significantly, the article does not claim that China is not facing grave environmental problems which are intensifying quickly in terms of both scope and magnitude, and that these problems do not have regional and global consequences. Instead, it attempts to unravel the underlying reasons why China has become the paradigmatic example of unsustainable development, and what implications this has for China's future economic development. Studying China in this context is instructive, given that China is not only the country leading the pack of a large group of Asian economies that are developing very quickly, economically speaking. China is also one of the most important of the developing nations, and its stance on policies for sustainable development marks – in many cases – the guideline that other developing countries will have to follow.

*Key words: China, sustainable development, the environment, developing countries*

## China's cities: A "risk scenario"? Inequality, social unrest and the policy of cultural essentialism

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The "growing inequality" in China is often described as a "collateral effect" of the country's economic miracle, and as a potential threat to its stability and prosperity. Basing its argument on several alternative examinations of the connection that exists between the growth of GDP and poverty/welfare, this article claims that the failure to provide urban workers with access to social benefits and the growing inequality in China's cities are two central aspects in the radical redesign of society that has been carried out in post-Mao China, and that it is essential to bear in mind the complexity of the situation in order to detect new areas of privilege and vulnerability. Following the outbreak of a growing series of conflicts and protests related to employment, the experts are debating the risks that social unrest could bring, and they often appeal to Chinese culture as a highly necessary element for drafting reliable scenarios. However, in order to grasp the project of China's modernisation in all its complexity, we must eschew essentialist readings of the culture, and adopt a critical approach when studying the society. This article attempts to widen the scope of our questions and concerns regarding social stability in China, and suggests alternative areas of study on Chinese society.

*Key words: China, society, city, poverty, social inequality, development, culture*

## Risks and opportunities for emerging markets: The cases of India and China

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Nowadays, the re-emergence of China and India as influential economic powers is commonly accepted as a fact. However, the path taken by each of the two countries over the past 15 years in order for them to reach the highest growth rates in the world has been quite different. In the case of China, much of the macroeconomic growth can be attributed (at least from the 1990s onwards) to Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). In India, meanwhile, the organic or autonomous development of businesses and consumption are the two main factors that have boosted the growth of GDP. Based on this premise, this article enumerates and explores the main economic, political, environmental and social challenges that must be dealt with in each case, thus presenting a panoramic view of each country's impending economic and political agenda. Finally, and by way of a conclusion, the article tackles the most important challenges and opportunities for investment in the two countries.

*Key words: China, India, development, economy, trade, international relations*

## Key factors to understanding the conflictive situation in North-East India

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This article aims to help expand our understanding of the armed conflicts and social tensions that exist in the Northeast of India, by examining the different levels at which conflict takes place, as well as by analysing some of the causes and factors involved in these contexts. To this end, the article is structured into three parts. In the first, the authors describe briefly the antecedents of the different conflicts and tensions, in order to establish a map of same and to contextualise them historically and socially. In the second part, five issues are analysed: armed conflicts as multifactorial realities that require examination in both regional and individual terms; the issue of demography as the constitutive factor of many discourses and accounts of the causes of disputes in the region; the Indian government's responses to the conflicts; the role played by international regional actors and, finally, the

dimension of gender in the conflicts. The third and final part includes some closing reflections, by way of a conclusion.

*Key words: India, development, conflict*

## Indonesia: Nation-building and democratic governance

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The constitution of a state in democracy and development in what is Indonesia today is just one of the possible stories of History. To explain what has made it possible and what will determine Indonesia's future and transformations, this paper offers an approach to the structuring axis of Indonesia's national construction; it also analyses the process that led to the replacing of the political regime established by Sukarno after independence by Suharto's "New Order", and its consolidation and crisis, which subsequently led to political transition, then to the present democratic regime in consolidation and to the overcoming of Indonesia's historical challenges. The paper concludes with an analysis of the current situation and the challenges Indonesia faces in the future.

*Key words: Indonesia, rule of law, state structure, democracy, democratic transition and consolidation, political change, nation building*

## The future of NATO and Russia: Identities and exclusion in Europe's security

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NATO has not adapted sufficiently to the new security environment. A reductionist interpretation of its identity as that of the western community stands in contradiction to the current European and global scenario, in which the majority of threats are shared

by both members and non-members of the Alliance. The enlargement process has helped to consolidate NATO's borders and its candidates as a line of political exclusion, thereby worsening relations with third countries (such as Russia), without obtaining, in exchange, a substantial increase in military security. We need to reconcile the organisation's different identities, starting with the concept of indivisibility of security that emerged at the end of the Cold War, and to create more flexible structures, while including all the European actors capable of contributing to the fight against real threats.

*Key words: OTAN, identity, security, exclusion*

## Mauritania and the European regional system of post-colonialism to Euro-Mediterranean Association

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During the five decades that have elapsed since it gained independence, Mauritania – a country that is lacking in natural resources and highly dependent on exterior aid – has prioritised its relations with the European regional system. These relations have been a reflection of the evolution of the principles of EU external action. Thus, during the period prior to the Maastricht Treaty, relations with Mauritania were framed within a collection of agreements based on development cooperation and fishing licences. However, with the introduction (in the 1990s) of a European Common Foreign and Security Policy, provided with new principles, a new political dimension was introduced into these relations; a dimension that would demonstrate its importance in Mauritania's recent political evolution. In this context, the aim of this article is: to analyse the main elements that have determined the evolution of this process of relations between the European Union and Mauritania; to examine the effects of the introduction of political criteria into this cooperation, and its impact on Mauritania's increasing closeness to the Euro-Mediterranean space; and to highlight, particularly, Spain's role with respect to designing EU strategies in areas of particular importance for our country's interests, such as political dialogue, controlling migration flows and fishing.

*Key words: Mauritania, European Union, external relations*

