

Institute of Sociology, Czech Academy of Sciences,
Institute of Asian Studies, Faculty of Arts, Charles University
and Centre of Global Studies of the Institute of Philosophy, Czech Academy of Sciences
invite you to the international conference

Indo-Pacific: The Next Crucible of Geopolitics?

9 September 2021

online via ZOOM platform

Spanning in its most extensive imagination from the eastern coast of Africa towards the western coast of the Americas, the Indo-Pacific is a geopolitical concept in the making. While its discursive continuities can be traced to interwar Germany, the contemporary notion of Indo-Pacific is most often connected with Indo-Japanese strategic deliberations followed by the speech by the Japanese prime minister Shinzo Abe in the Parliament of India in 2007 when he famously defined it as the confluence of two seas. From a core concern with the freedom of navigation to a more solid security arrangements like the QUAD and its extensions, the idea of Indo-Pacific seems to gradually attain more material contours. The United States' Pacific Command was renamed Indo-Pacific Command in 2018. Since then, four European countries as well as the EU have formulated strategic policy papers towards the region.

This conference will bring together experts from the fields of Political Science, Security Studies and South Asian Studies to look from different angles at what is increasingly becoming the crucible of geopolitics.

9:00–9:30 Introductory Session

Opening remarks

Marek Hrubec

Czech Academy of Sciences, Coordinator of the Strategy AV 21 research program Global Conflicts and Local Interactions

Address by H. E. Hemant H. Kotalwar

Ambassador of India to the Czech Republic

Address by H. E. Libor Sečka

Ambassador, Special Envoy for the Indo-Pacific, MFA, Czech Republic

Introduction

Martin Hříbek

Institute of Asian Studies, Faculty of Arts, Charles University

9:30–10:30 Session I

The Sino-Indian Border Dispute, 1950s–2021

Sumantra Bose

London School of Economics and Political Science

QUAD and the Elusive Quest for an Asian NATO

Jagannath Panda

Research Fellow & Centre Coordinator for East Asia, Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi

10:30–10:45 Break

10:45–12:15 Session II

The role of QUAD in Great Power Politics in Indo-Pacific region

Jakub Zajączkowski

Department of Area and Global Studies, Faculty of Political Science and International Studies, University of Warsaw

European strategies towards the Indo-Pacific

Krzysztof Iwanek

Head, Asia Research Centre, Centre for Security Studies, War Studies University, Poland

The Contours of the Biden Administration's Indo-Pacific Strategy

Jan Hornát

Department of North American Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University

12:15–13:00 Lunch Break

13:00–14:30 Session III

Maritime Silk Road through Greater India: Place for contest or place for cooperation?

Jiří Krejčík

Institute of Sociology, Czech Academy of Sciences

Indo-Pacific: What it was and where it leaves us now

Hansong Li

Department of Government, Harvard University

Imagineries of Space and Purpose across the Indo-Pacific

Martin Hříbek

Institute of Asian Studies, Faculty of Arts, Charles University

14:30–15:00 Roundtable Discussion

The conference will be a hybrid event. Due to social distancing rules, only speakers may be present at the venue. Members of interested public are most welcome to **join online via ZOOM**. If you wish to receive the ID and the passcode, register at jiri.krejcik@soc.cas.cz

The conference is organised within the Strategy AV 21 of the Czech Academy of Sciences, research program Global Conflicts and Local Interactions.