



ADVANCED SEMINAR



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The Hegemon Knocks on the Door: Will China Dominate Southeast Asia?

Southeast Asian states emphasise the centrality of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in regional relations, but one must ask whether Southeast Asia's fate isn't already determined by its neighbour, China. China's 'Peaceful Rise' has seen Beijing strive to improve relations with ASEAN in recent years through a 'charm offensive', manifesting concretely in the establishment of the China-ASEAN free trade zone in 2010. In 2013, President Xi Jinping announced the Belt and Road Initiative which will integrate Eurasia along a gigantic economic corridor. One of the main beneficiaries would be Southeast Asia, but some ASEAN states - Vietnam and the Philippines in particular - are involved in fierce disputes with China over sovereignty claims in the South China Sea. This seminar examines these developments and suggests that, despite China's clear efforts to achieve hegemony, a Pax Sinica has not (yet) emerged in the region.

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