Regional Approaches to Nuclear Non-Proliferation

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Research Question: Can policymakers reorient existing regional instruments to strengthen the non-proliferation regime? Should they create new ones altogether?

Introduction

Struggles of the nuclear non-proliferation regime
- Resentment of nuclear haves re: NPT bargain
- Moving beyond traditional state proliferation
- Limitations in dealing with non-state actors
- Concerns with security and safety issues

Regional dimensions of nuclear challenges
- Weapons linked to regional rivalries & dynamics
- Different issues faced in different regions
- Lack of prioritization in developing world

Potential of more regional-oriented approaches
- Success of nuclear-weapon-free zones (NWFZs)
- More focused in addressing particular concerns
- Trends in economic and political regionalism
- Prominence of regional organizations

Theory / Research Design

Literature on regionalism
- Emergence of regional security governance
- Link between economic and security cooperation

Literature on institutions (establishment & change)
- Modes: “displacement, layering, drift, conversion”
- Presence of “critical juncture” for action?

Qualitative case studies of regions and subregions
- Explore possibility for:
  1. Establishment of NWFZs (full or limited)
  2. Institutionalizing current nuclear cooperation
  3. Creation of specialized nuclear organizations
  4. Agenda expansion of existing arrangements

Northeast Asia

Proliferation-Related Concerns
- North Korean nuclear program
- Nuclear security shortcomings
- Expansion of nuclear energy

State of Regionalism
The Northeast Asian “troika”

Intra-regional Trade

North East Asia Peace and Cooperation Initiative

Nuclear Institutionalism
Reconstituting the Six-Party Talks
- Inclusive nature & support: “no other mechanism”
- Possibility of conversion: beyond North Korea?
- NEA Peace & Security Mechanism Working Group
- BUT need for DPRK involvement, other challenges

Other potential frameworks
- Possibility of NEA-NWFZ or Korea-Japan NWFZ?
- EURATOM as a model for China, Japan, ROK?
- Top Regulators’ Meetings, centers of excellence

Southeast Asia

Proliferation-Related Concerns
- Emergence of energy sector
- Presence of trafficking, terrorism
- Tensions in South China Sea

State of Regionalism
Asia-Pacific architecture

Post-Cold War evolution of ASEAN
- Conversion: Vision 2020 and the Bali Concord II
- "Strategic redefinition" after 1997 financial crisis
- Towards the Political-Security Community
- ASEAN principles & impact on institutionalization
- Fundamental contradictions? Success and limits
- Cooperation in non-traditional security areas

Nuclear Institutionalism
Revisiting the 1995 Bangkok Treaty
- Content as manifestation of ASEAN way
- Commission linked to Ministerial Meetings
- Foreshadows ASEAN influence in future action
- Anachronistic? SEANWFZ shortcomings

Attention on safety issues: ASEANATOM

References


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