CHINA'S RELATIONS WITH MYANMAR AND CHINESE AMBITIONS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN

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Since 1991 and until 2010, China was not only Myanmar’s largest foreign investor but also the country’s biggest supplier of military hardware. In fact, some scholars have even argued that it was with Beijing’s support that the Myanmar junta remained in power until early 2011, when a nominally civilian government took over from the army. The Chinese sale of military hardware to Myanmar not only boosted the power base of its ruling junta but even militarized the state. Beijing’s relationship with the Myanmar military junta had been so close that the latter was often described as a Chinese satellite state. For one, Chinese support for Myanmar’s junta was not just aimed at exploiting the abundant natural resources of the country, but it even had an underlying military dimension – at least according to New Delhi. The Indian government saw all these moves by China as attempts to encircle India. Moreover, evidence of Chinese military activities around the Bay of Bengal revealed that the Chinese were attempting to install reconnaissance equipment in the Myanmar delta area. In a swift response, New Delhi not only strongly protested but began refashioning its Myanmar policy from one that supported democracy in Myanmar to one that began working with the Myanmar junta. In order to contain Chinese influence in Myanmar, New Delhi announced a new Myanmar policy in 1993 that was designed to increase Indian presence in the country. The purpose of this paper is to investigate to what extent was China using Myanmar as base for encircling India or whether China’s policy merely aimed at exploiting the country’s rich natural resources.

Keywords: China, Myanmar, Indian Ocean, Military Ambitions, India

TOWARD A NEW PERSPECTIVE ON STATELESS CHILDREN IN MALAYSIA

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Often viewed as an eyesore, the existence of stateless children in Malaysia demands both a practical and comprehensive approach rather than sidelong the issue and assuming that it does
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