

# Prologue<sup>\*</sup>

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Since *China International Strategy Review* was launched in 2008, it has been analyzing and commenting on major changes in the international strategic situation in the form of a collection of annual reports. The eighth collection is now presented to the readership. With the support of China International Publishing Group and Foreign Languages Press Co. Ltd, the English edition of *China International Strategy Review* has been published since 2012, which opens up a window for overseas readers to learn about Chinese scholars' ideas and their research. To our delight, both the Chinese and English editions of the *Review* have been well appreciated by our readers, which boosts our confidence to make this annual publication even better in the future.

The Center for International and Strategic Studies of Peking University, the original sponsor of the publication, was officially renamed as the Institute of International and Strategic Studies of Peking University (website: [www.iiss.pku.edu.cn](http://www.iiss.pku.edu.cn)) in October 2013, thus becoming a research entity affiliated with the university's School of International Studies. This institute is a think-tank based in Peking University and is oriented not only to domestic readers but also to the world. The purpose of the institute is to serve the needs of teaching and research in world politics, international economy, and relative social and cultural issues. It also aims to provide objective analysis in relevant areas to different sectors of society. We hope that our observations and reflections can offer

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\* This is originally written in Chinese.

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consultation for China's global strategy formulation.

Since 2014, changes of great significance have taken place in terms of the international strategic situation and China's foreign relations. Various uncertainties have obviously exacerbated. The recovery of the world economy witnessed tangible results partly because of the continuing growth of China and other emerging economies. Yet, not much progress has been seen in the transformation of the development modes of these emerging economies. Due to factors such as the growth of labor costs, low demand in global markets, restrictions from environmental policies, and falling prices of energy and most other major products, the economic development of the emerging economies and Russia reaches bottlenecks in different aspects and degrees. Among developed countries, the US economy is relatively healthier, while the Japanese economy and the economies of major European countries are still staggering. The Scottish independence referendum in 2014 and the Greek sovereign debt crisis, among other factors, highlight the fact that the European integration still displays challenges to overcome.

The security situation in the Asia-Pacific has turned more complex. Sino-Japanese relations have been eased gradually. However, the South China Sea dispute between China, the US, Japan and few ASEAN countries become more manifest. Chinese observers generally attribute the complex security situation in the region to the "pivot to Asia" strategy of the United States; it is the Philippines and Vietnam who, instigated by the United States and Japan, challenge China's legitimate maritime rights and interests, making the situation in the South China Sea unstable. However, the governments and media of the United States, Japan and some other countries blame the threats to security in the Asia-Pacific region on China's "assertive rise," and question China's stated intention of upholding the path of peaceful development. There appears to be more serious structural obstacles for the construction of a comprehensive security framework in the Asia-Pacific region. Sino-US relations project the semblance of general stability with a surging undercurrent. The complexity in Sino-US relations also triggers debates among both Chinese and American scholars.

The 2015 edition of the *Review* contains 20 articles that are

appropriately focused on a wide spectrum of international issues with practical significance, such as the Sino-US relations and the Sino-Japanese relations. We also include articles that investigate new directions for China's foreign relations, global governance, African development, Russian diplomacy, the Ukraine crisis, and the current situation in Afghanistan among others. Two special featured articles comprehensively analyze contemporary international order and security challenge. Two other articles about the context of the Second World War are also thought-provoking. The 70th anniversary of the UN and the victory over the Axis powers of WWII is a timely opportunity to review and reflect the historical experience of the War which provided the realistic significance for constructing an Asia-Pacific security framework and safeguarding world peace.

This annual collection is compiled in hopes of encouraging new ideas in strategic studies, thereby offering better international strategic options, broader perspectives and deeper analysis. We welcome support and suggestions from all our readers.

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