Economic and Political Reform

The most important domestic factor that has shaped and still shapes China’s foreign policy and diplomacy is the country’s economic rise. China’s transition from a centrally planned economy to a (socialist) market economy, its integration into the world economy and the resulting spectacular growth have made China an economic powerhouse. The theory, introduced by Hu in 2005 and expected to be officially adopted at the 17th Congress of the Chinese Communist Party in late 2007, builds upon the domestic ‘harmonious society’ theory and the still widely used concept of China’s ‘peaceful rise’ (heping jueqi). It revolves around four broad issues: (1) effective multilateralism with a strong role for the UN. In book: Public Diplomacy and the Politics of Uncertainty (pp.255-276). Authors: Sara Kulsoom. This includes an intensified competition with China over greater diplomatic clout, triggered by the advancement of the New Great Game in South Asia. In order to counter China’s rise in the region, India focuses its public diplomacy practice on deepening its relationship with the United States, Russia and other regional powers, while advancing economic integration in South Asia. Similarly, India hopes to reshape global power while advancing multi-polarity. The April 2010 coup in Kyrgyzstan and the ethnic clashes in the south in June attracted a lot of media and academic attention. Laymen and experts alike associated the events in Bishkek and Osh with the interests of external actors: extraterritorial criminal/terrorist structures, neighboring countries (Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, China, and Afghanistan), and Russia and the United States in particular. The very fact that Washington and Moscow recognized the interim government of Roza Otunbaeva was interpreted as its legitimization; once more the U.S. and the Russian Federation (a global and regional power) recognized the political legitimacy of the interim government. Currently, India’s politics is increasingly characterized by the rise of populism, domestic and transnational conflicts, and a shift in the regional balance of power. This includes an intensified competition with China over greater diplomatic clout, triggered by the advancement of the New Great Game in South Asia. The struggle for soft power in Asia: Public diplomacy and regional competition. Asian Security, 9(1), 1-18. Cite this: Hanson, E. C. (2012, December). Soft power contestation between India and China in South Asia. Indian Foreign Affairs Journal, 11(2), 139-152. Cite this: Heath, O. (2020).