



PILIPINAS CONFERENCE 2020

**PHILIPPINES AND THE
INDO-PACIFIC: RESPONDING
TO THE EMERGING REGIONAL
POLITICAL-SECURITY ENVIRONMENT**

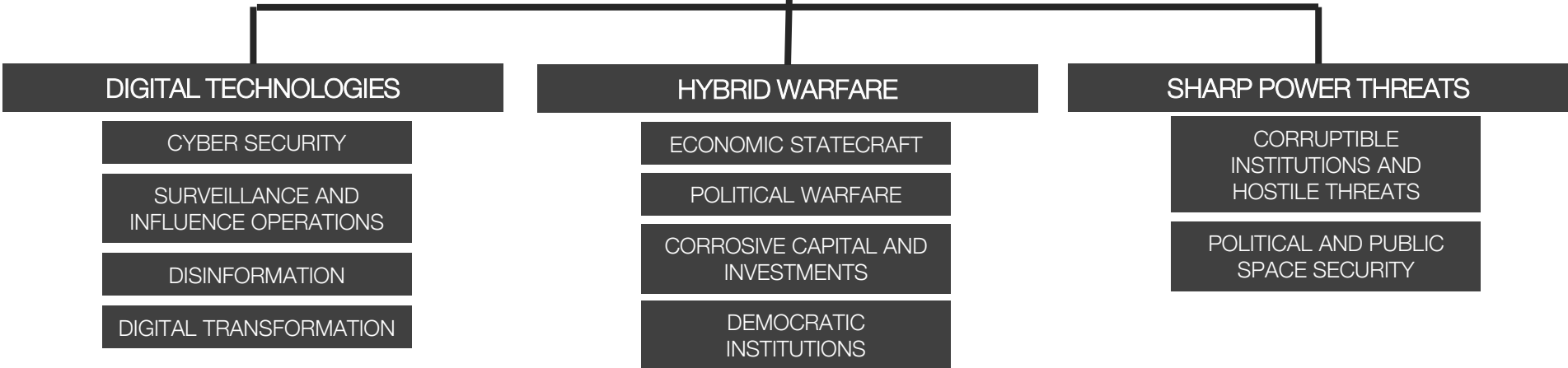
- RULES-BASED ORDER
- ALLIANCE BUILDING
- GRAYZONE OPERATIONS
- LITTORAL DEFENSE CAPABILITY
- MARITIME DOMAIN AWARENESS

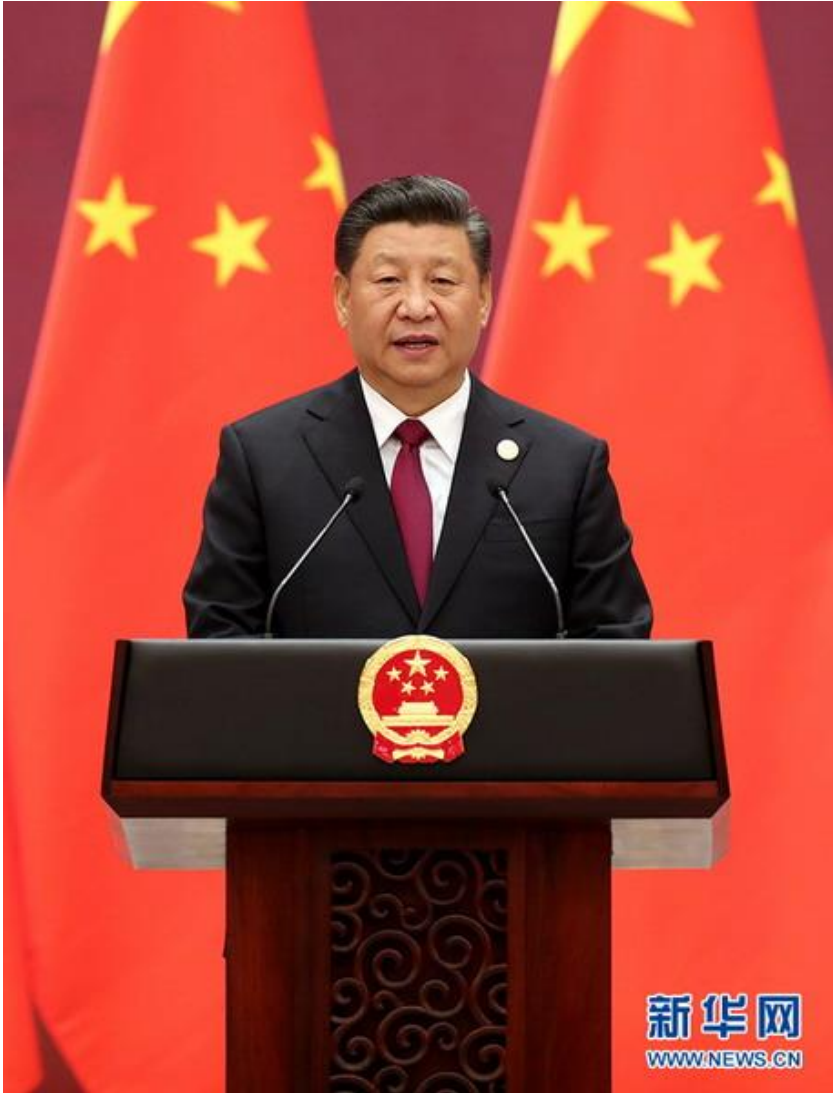
- GEOPOLITICAL AND REGIONAL SECURITY ARCHITECTURE
- STATE AND ITS INSTITUTIONAL COHESION AND COORDINATION
- MARITIME AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY



- CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCE
- ECONOMIC SECURITY
- HEALTH AND PANDEMIC CRISES
- TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME

- COASTAL MANAGEMENT
- DRRM
- MARITIME SECURITY CAPABILITY
- FOOD SECURITY
- VULNERABILITY OF CRITICAL INFRA
- TERRORISM AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM





“China’s emergence as a political and economic power has come with growing ambitions, including the attempt to position itself as a global leader and shape the international order. However, **its rise is far from “peaceful,”** with its questionable economic initiatives and aggression in the West Philippine Sea. Given the critical juncture that China is in today, its foreign policy direction will dictate the country’s global standing in the coming years.”

Confronting the China challenge

Philippine Daily Inquirer, September 2020

Murray Hiebert’s Book Launch

(Under Beijing's Shadow: Southeast Asia's China Challenge)



Shifting away from great power politicking

The uncertainty of the global order is **heavily influenced by the unique characteristics of China's rise**. Its calculative approach in navigating through the current order bears **the nature of hybrid tactics** where it exploits vulnerabilities through the strategic and opportunistic employment of its power and influence.

The **excessive focus placed on the strategic competition between the US and China has undermined the role of other states in the region**. From a broader perspective, these are two powers within a regional system made up of **middle to smaller powers** whose stake and interests are just as substantial. The Indo-Pacific states have **an equal, if not greater, impact on how the regional order will be shaped because of their significant political, economic, military, and socio-cultural power**.

“Middle-power countries should realize that even if the US presence in the Indo-Pacific is crucial to ensure a rules-based order, **the region's future should not be dictated by or charted under a unipolar hegemony.** As the region's political landscape continues to evolve, there is a crucial need for middle powers to recognize their role and the **importance of creating a network of like-minded states to protect and maintain an open and multipolar Indo-Pacific region.**”

“The current global disorder, with the rise of evolving security threats in both traditional and non-traditional spaces, demands that the region **utilize effective minilateral collaborations among strategic partners and allies.**”

Philippine Daily Inquirer
November 2020



THANK YOU!

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