

China's Rise to Changes in Southeast Asia's Political Landscape

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ABSTRACT

With the continuous advancement of economic reforms, China's economy has developed by leaps and bounds, and its comprehensive national strength and international influence have rapidly increased, and it has become an important power in the world. As its neighbor, China's rise has had far-reaching effects on Southeast Asian countries. Therefore, this article conducts an in-depth study of the rise of China on the changes in the political structure of Southeast Asia. While analyzing the advantages of China's rise, the characteristics of China's geostrategy, and the characteristics of the political situation in Southeast Asia after the rise of China, it also studies the economic cooperation between China and Southeast Asia after the rise of China. The research results show that from 2003 to 2016, China's investment in Southeast Asia has been steadily increasing, and the asset stock has continued to grow. Especially after 2015, the annual increase is more than 10 billion U.S. dollars. As of the end of 2016, China's direct investment stock in Southeast Asian countries has reached US\$71.553 billion.

Keywords: *The Rise of China, the Political Pattern of Southeast Asia, Geopolitics, Political and Economic Influence*

1. INTRODUCTION

There is no doubt that China has created countless miracles to get rid of its status as a poor country and become one of the largest powers in the world today [1-2]. Thanks to its amazing growth for three consecutive decades, China's cumulative influence has grown strongly year by year. Undeniably, the rise of the People's Republic of China is a global reality [3-4].

In recent years, with the rapid and prosperous economic and social development of China, the momentum of its rise has become increasingly obvious. Although China's economic rise has provided certain opportunities for survival and social development for Southeast Asian countries and the people of China, it has provided more challenges for the Southeast Asian countries and people of China, especially in terms of geography and politics[5-6]. Properly handling the current potential conflicts between China and Southeast Asia and resolving the current contradictions in the development of socialism between China and Southeast Asia are crucial to promote the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. Living in harmony between China and Southeast Asia is not only conducive to the creation of a

good external environment and conditions for the sustainable economic and social development of China and Southeast Asia, but also conducive to the possibility of providing a good reference for the construction of peace and rise of China and Southeast Asia [7-8].

This article analyzes the advantages of China's rise, the characteristics of China's geostrategy, and the characteristics of the political situation in Southeast Asia after China's rise. At the same time, it also studies the economic cooperation between China and Southeast Asia after the rise of China. The investment volume of the company has been growing steadily, and the asset market has continued to grow. Especially after 2015, the annual increase is more than 10 billion U.S. dollars. At the end of 2016, China's direct investment stock in Southeast Asian countries has reached US\$71.553 billion.

2. CHINA'S RISE TO CHANGES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA'S POLITICAL LANDSCAPE

2.1. Advantages of China's Rise

- (1) Natural resources and geographical advantages

Among the major countries in the world, China has development advantages that other countries cannot match. China has a land area of 9.6 million square kilometers, accounting for 22.1% of the land area of the Asian continent and 6.4% of the world's land area. It is one of the countries with a vast land area in the world, ranking third in the world. Hydropower resources rank first in the world, and the development potential of marine resources is huge. The coal resources are rich. By the end of 1990, the coal holdings reached 90.453 billion tons, ranking top in the world [9-10]. At the same time, China is also one of the countries with the most types of wild animals and vegetation in the world, and it is almost the country with all kinds of wild animals and vegetation in the northern hemisphere. Various types of land resources exist in the distribution range. China is currently one of the other countries with a wide variety of mineral resources in the world, a wide distribution, a large amount of deposits, and an absolute majority of mineral resources that can be self-sufficient. According to statistics, by the end of 1990, China had discovered and proven as many as 148 metal minerals with certain reserves [11-12].

(2) Scientific and technological strength and human resources

A country's development cannot be separated from its own rich natural resources, but economic growth cannot be separated from science and technology and human resources. Today's world science and technology are the primary productive forces, and rich human resources are the foundation of science and technology. Therefore, only by mastering technology and human resources, economic development will become possible, and the rise of the country will be a matter of course.

In fact, since independence, China has paid special attention to the development of science and technology of the construction of talent teams. China has always regarded science and technology as an important part of national development, and has formulated detailed science and technology development plans and established a complete science and technology research and management system. And cultivated a large number of scientific and technological talents to make important contributions to China's development. China's status on the international stage today is inseparable from the importance attached to science and technology by previous Chinese governments. In addition, China has continuously strengthened its scientific and technological exchanges with the world to ensure that it can keep up with the development trend of world advanced technology. After years of unremitting efforts, China has not only made considerable progress in nuclear technology, space technology, software technology, etc., but also made brilliant achievements in the fields of biotechnology and solar energy, and has a place in the world's cutting-edge technology. Huge scientific and

technological strength is a solid foundation for China's rise and a necessary condition for China's development.

In addition, it is worth paying attention to China's abundant human resources. Some people may think that China has a huge population and naturally has abundant human resources, but this is not the case. The huge population is only the basis for the enrichment of human resources. The abundance of human resources in China stems from China's high-quality personnel. Although China was poor and weak at the beginning of the founding of the People's Republic of China, the government did not ignore the development of education. Successive Chinese governments have attached great importance to higher education and invested a lot of funds in the education sector, hoping to transform China's population burden into manpower through the development of education.

(3) Strong comprehensive national power

First, China has strong hard power. After decades of difficult development, China's economy has laid the foundation for its rise. Today, China's economic aggregate ranks second in the world, and it is an important economy in the world today. The rapid economic development in the past two decades has also made a huge contribution to the world economy and is known as the "engine of the world economy." The rise of China lies in its sound foundation. China has a complete industrial system with a complete range of products and a large scale. This ensures that China has achieved self-sufficiency in important commodities and will not rely on other countries. After a long period of hard work, China has not only established a fairly complete and strong team of scientific and technological talents, but also established a set of talent incentive mechanisms to enable talents to emerge in large numbers, which has provided a steady stream of talents for China's development.

2.2. Characteristics of China's Geostrategy

(1) Advocating unity, stressing cohesion

China's stable geographic environment and unique and profound cultural heritage have cultivated people's self-confidence and pride in the nation and the country. This invisible spiritual power is the fundamental reason why the Chinese nation has continued to live for thousands of years, and it is also the fundamental reason why China has been invaded by foreign powers and has survived, struggled and revived since modern times.

Modern Chinese geostrategic thinking has inherited the "great unification" of the traditional Chinese geostrategic thinking of "China as one", and has always put the maintenance of the unity of the Chinese nation, national sovereignty and territorial integrity in the first place. After the founding of New China, in order to defend national security and independence, it fought

resolutely against imperialism and hegemonism; after unremitting efforts, Hong Kong and Macao have returned to the motherland smoothly. Solving the Taiwan issue and realizing the complete reunification of the motherland have become important goals of modern China's geostrategy.

(2) Harmony is the most important thing, and peace is advocated

The Chinese nation originated from agricultural civilization, and its living environment is superior and relatively stable. This has played a major role in the breeding of peaceful thoughts. It is the nature of Chinese people in all generations to advocate peace. China's traditional culture has always advocated helping the weak and coexisting peacefully. The weight of the word "peace" has an overwhelming status in Chinese society. "Rule of courtesy", "rule of morals", "kingdom" and "benevolent governance" are the dominant political propositions of Chinese thinkers from ancient to modern times. Mencius's thoughts of "convincing people with virtue" all advocate kingly way and pay attention to peace. The Chinese nation takes an extremely cautious attitude towards war. Advocating cautious warfare, preparing for war, and stopping war, has obvious reactive characteristics.

(3) The land is in charge of the sea, the north is more important than the south

In the pursuit of living space, China's traditional geopolitical strategy has obvious characteristics of focusing on land and over sea. The main reasons that caused the ancient Chinese geostrategic pattern "Land dominates the sea" were both economic and military. From an economic point of view, ancient China was based on agriculture for a long time and lacked understanding of the ocean. It was not until modern powers invaded from the sea that Haiphong was put on the agenda. From a military standpoint, the main threat of the Central Plains dynasty came from the northern nomads. The northern region became a prone area for wars in ancient China. The Central Plains dynasty mostly placed the focus of fortification in the north.

Modern Chinese geostrategic thinking has changed the tendency of traditional Chinese geostrategic thinking to place emphasis on land and over sea, and is committed to safeguarding the security of China's land, sea and air frontiers. After the founding of the People's Republic of China, it was not only committed to building a powerful army, but also a powerful navy and air force. Soon after the satellites of the former Soviet Union and the United States were launched into the sky, China developed its own missiles and satellites under extremely difficult conditions, and thus became one of the countries with advanced aerospace technology.

(4) Get out of yourself and look at the world

In the geopolitical consciousness of ancient China, because China developed and evolved in a relatively closed geographic environment, coupled with the low level of science and technology at that time, and lack of understanding of the world's geographic environment, the idea of "China Center" was very strong. Gradually evolved into a mode of understanding the world. The feudal rulers did not understand or even refused to understand the outside world, practiced self-reliance, and could not treat themselves, the emerging Western civilization, and the ever-changing science and technology with the correct attitude. This made China lose the opportunity to learn and surpass the West, and ultimately lead to dominance. The coquettish home country of civilization for thousands of years has become a lagging behind in modern world history.

Modern Chinese geostrategic thinking has also abandoned the "China Center" concept of traditional Chinese geostrategic thinking, and established the Chinese people's global concept. The Opium War of 1840 opened the eyes of the Chinese. In the flames of fighting against imperialist aggression, the Chinese gradually established a global consciousness. With the ever-increasing global ties, the Chinese people pay more attention to considering their own country's security development and responsibilities to the world from the perspective of global geographic relations and from the perspective of the country's connections with the outside world.

2.3. Characteristics of the Political Situation in Southeast Asia after the Rise of China

(1) Modernization

The political modernization of socialist countries described here includes the political participation of modern socialist countries due to the transformation from the traditional socialist political system to the modern socialist political system. A particularly important point is the political system of socialist countries. Among them, the most typical, important, historical and practical place is Cambodia. In recent decades, it has basically realized the transformation from the traditional politics at that time to the politics socialist modernized country at that time. Since modern times, the socialist ideological and political, economic and social construction and modernization process in Southeast Asia have basically taken a step forward. From the perspective of democratic thinking and social and political forms, except for Brunei, it is still generally considered. In fact, in addition to a relatively traditional national monarchy, other regions and countries in the world have successively established and formally implemented in fact Southeast Asia is a constitutional monarchy, but this does not necessarily mean that Southeast Asia is a country. The establishment and modernization of socialist national politics have been fully realized. And from the perspective of modern

Chinese history, which system is most likely to be truly suitable for the country's socio-economic and social development should be made by the people of all countries in the world, rather than being promoted from the outside, there is not only one Western standard.

(2) Decentralization

The trend of decentralization of government power in Southeast Asian countries has brought a series of consequences to Southeast Asian governments. Domestic and foreign policies and decisions will pay more attention to the economic and social interests of the main domestic interest groups, and will pay more attention to bargaining between the major interest groups. Governments of various countries will have a great opportunity to cause their governments to become relative in the process of economic structural transformation. More "introverted", this kind of transformation has a good chance of delaying or even stagnating the process of local regionalization construction that was advancing and developing at a slow pace. The decentralization of power mentioned here refers to the diversification and decentralization of government power. The power of the government is highly concentrated in a central government, in a certain important interest group, and in the hands of specific people. The reality is gone forever, and instead is dominated by diversified and decentralized reforms of various powers.

3. EXPERIMENT

3.1. Data Sources

In addition to analyzing the rise of China and the changes in the political structure of Southeast Asia, this article also analyzes the economic cooperation between China and Southeast Asia after the rise of China, mainly including the total amount, stock and industrial structure of China's direct investment in Southeast Asia. The historical origin of China's direct investment in Southeast Asia especially after the establishment of the free trade

zone, a large number of Chinese companies have gone abroad to invest in Southeast Asia. China is also working hard to guide the continued development of this trend, and the national level has also launched the "Belt and Road Initiative" strategy at an appropriate time. Chinese companies are accelerating their pace by relying on this shareholder trend to continue to explore the Southeast Asian market and seek corporate development.

3.2. Data Processing

In order to be able to see the obtained data more intuitively, this article uses line graphs and bar statistical graphs to describe the data. After data processing, it is easy to see certain changes and rules. After scientific and effective analysis, it can provide us with valuable basis and recommendations.

4. DISCUSSION

4.1. The Total Amount of China's Direct Investment in Southeast Asia Continues to Expand

From the perspective of investment flow, as shown in Figure 1, from 2003 to 2007, China's direct investment flow in Southeast Asia has been rising steadily and evenly. Beginning in 2007, the flow of China's direct investment in Southeast Asia began to grow by leaps and bounds, the investment flow reached 968 million U.S. dollars, more than doubled compared to 2006. After 2008, due to the impact of the international financial crisis, investment gradually slowed down. The amount of investment in 2009 and 2010 was basically the same, and there was not much change. By 2010, due to the establishment of free trade zones and many other good news, China's direct investment flows to Southeast Asian countries have maintained a medium-to-high-speed growth from 2010 to 2015. By 2016, the rate of investment dropped slightly.

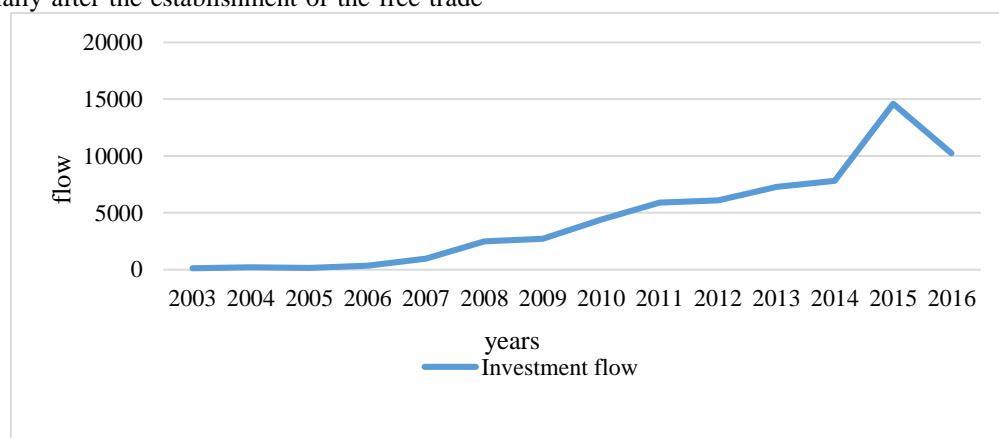


Figure 1. 2003-2016 China's investment flow in Southeast Asia

From the perspective of investment stock, as shown in Figure 2, from 2003 to 2016, China's investment

volume in Southeast Asia has been steadily increasing, and the asset stock has continued to grow. Especially

after 2015, the annual increase is more than 10 billion U.S. dollars. As of the end of 2016, China's direct

investment stock in Southeast Asian countries has reached US\$71.553 billion.

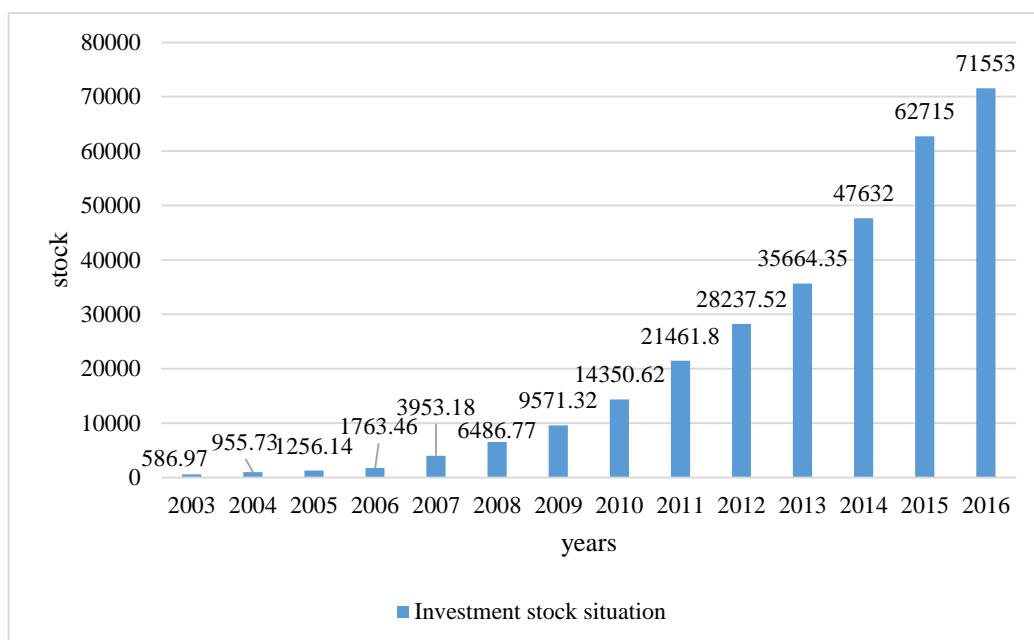


Figure 2. 2003-2016 China's investment stock in Southeast Asia

4.2. The Industrial Structure of China's Direct Investment in Southeast Asia is Continuously Optimized

The field of China's direct investment in Southeast Asia has also been rapidly expanded with the continuous deepening of bilateral economic and trade cooperation. China's investment field has expanded from simple rough processing at the initial stage of investment to energy, finance, construction and other industries, covering a wide range of fields. For example, after fierce competition, China won the Jakarta-Bandung high-speed rail project. On October 16, 2015, the Chinese Enterprise Consortium and the Indonesian State-owned Enterprise

Consortium formally signed a cooperation agreement for the Jakarta-Bandung high-speed rail project. In 2009, China Power Investment Corporation invested in the construction of the Myitsone Hydropower Project in Myanmar; China Huaneng Group successfully expanded in Singapore in 2008. Tencent acquired local operators in Vietnam and Thailand in 2008 and 2010, respectively. Construction of the Laos section of the China-Laos Railway started, and the first project of connecting the Chinese railway network to Southeast Asia's overseas railways was opened. The continuous deepening of China's direct investment in Southeast Asia is conducive to the sustained and win-win development of the bilateral economy.

Table 1. Industry distribution of China's investment in Southeast Asia from 2011 to 2016

industry	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
manufacturing	12.1	12	13.2	13	15	18.5
mining industry	11.2	14.4	14.9	12.8	10.1	14.3
Financial industry	10.7	9.2	8.0	12.4	7.0	6.5
Construction industry	7.7	8.0	8.3	7.1	6.3	6.5
Real estate	0.8	0.7	3.8	2.5	2.0	2.6
Education			0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Others	0.2	0.2	0.2		0.0	0.0

It can be seen from Table 1 that the proportion of manufacturing industry has increased from 12.1% in 2011 to 18.5% in 2016. It is currently the industry with the largest proportion, and the proportion of the mining industry has also increased to varying degrees.

5. CONCLUSION

China has an important influence on world peace and development. The rise of China is not an accidental phenomenon, but an inevitable result of development. It has the basic conditions needed for its rise. Abundant natural resources, abundant human resources, unique geographical advantages and strong national will have

jointly promoted China's economic take-off. In the course of its rise, China implemented a series of foreign strategies, which greatly broadened its strategic space and laid a solid foundation for China to exert its influence in the world.

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