

**Yong Wook Lee, Key-young Son  
(Hgg.): China's Rise and Regional  
Integration in East Asia:  
Hegemony or Community?**

New York: Routledge, 2014. 176 S.,  
USD 135,00

Attempting to move away from the use of grand narratives or ambitious prognoses about global politics, the editors of this edited volume made it their intention to assess the current dynamics of international relations within East Asia by utilizing more cautious and balanced points of view. As stated by the editors, the work "provides new arguments on China's rise and the transformation of East Asia and analyzes the foreign policy behavior of the regional states and relations among them." In so doing, the chapters promise to "explicate the modalities of regional cooperation and to posit the range of the emergent institutional possibilities." From a theoretical perspective, the editors look to transcend the dichotomy of hegemony and community by synthesizing these dynamic concepts: "as twin processes generating the transformation of East Asia." The editors conclude that a positive trend towards regionalism has been set in motion in East Asia, driven by the hegemonic rise of China and persistent influence of the United States; they are, however, reserved in identifying specific contours that regionalism could come to assume. Utilizing "strategic, political, economic and historical perspectives" – with the goal of including voices of Chinese scholars –, the editors appeal to both students and scholars – presumably with some prior related knowledge – interested in "Chinese politics, Asian politics, international relations and regionalism." Ultimately, the results of their efforts deliver on the promise of offering diverse and informative perspectives on international relations in East Asia.

The volume is divided into two main sections, each respectively approaching the twin dynamics of hegemony and community. The

first section focuses on discourses surrounding the shift in strategic relations in East Asia in the wake of Chinese ascendancy, while the second deals with the process of community building in the region. Following the introductory chapter by Yong Wook Lee and Key-young Son, chapters 2 to 5 analyze the hegemonic aspects of international affairs and region-building in East Asia, each taking a different approach. Chapter 2 looks to recent trends to identify the potentially complementary character of Chinese economic hegemony paired with US military and political hegemony. The following chapter assumes an opposite view, positing that militarism is rising between the US and China – driven by respective national leaders – and the potential for conflict is great. Chapter 5 analyzes public sentiment towards the G2 dichotomy in China and South Korea, assuming a direct link with policy making by state actors. Chapters 4, 6 and 8 share an undertone of apologetics for either Chinese benevolence (4 and 8) or the US' inherently good intentions (6). Chapters 7 and 9 investigate sources and drivers of hitherto institution building in East Asia, utilizing a constructivist and economic approach.

Several chapters in this volume can be praised for their nuanced insights and balanced analyses of current dynamics in East Asia. Quansheng Zhao's chapter on the transformation of US-Chinese relations presents a novel argument for complementary balancing by the two powers in separate spheres. Jung-Nam Lee's investigation into public opinion and its impacts on policy making can likewise be highlighted for its deep insights. T.J. Pempel offers a very convincing analysis of regional balancing occurring in two distinct spheres: economics and security. Finally, Yong Wook Lee's chapter combines economic and constructivist approaches focusing on perceptions and values well in his chapter on regionalism and institution building since the Asian Financial Crisis. Overall, the volume does well in combining diverse theoretical

perspectives, levels of analysis in international relations, and also opposing viewpoints on the protagonists and antagonists of relations in East Asia.

Other chapters do, however, fall short on delivering critical analysis or grounded theoretical arguments. Qinggua Jia's chapter on China's military rise expends too much effort justifying all aspects of Chinese military spending without considering the threat potential inherent in an outside's view, and the author's argument that the US, Germany and Japan were all great powers with peaceful rises comes across as uninformed. Gilbert Rozman follows a similar unbalanced tone in that he seems to take a "can do no wrong" attitude towards US involvement in East Asia and an overly normative understanding of universal values. Xiaoming Zhang's chapter concludes with three very broad and widely divergent potential outcomes for regionalism in East Asia accompanied by thin policy advice which add little to deepened understandings of dynamics and trends in the region.

On the whole, this edited volume fulfils its promise to present balanced and in-depth, yet reserved, analyses of regionalism and international relations in East Asia. It can particularly be lauded for successfully and valuably "elucidate[ing] the security side of region making and the sociological changes involving identities and values" and making use of varied theoretical approaches that complement one another well. A concluding chapter by Lee and Son would have been useful in tying the chapters together and providing prospective, but their introduction provides sufficient guidance and presents critical questions that lead the reader through the rest of the work. This edited volume can contribute to a differentiated understanding of regionalism and hegemony in East Asia and does so without following any particular theoretical dogma within international relations.

Nick Gemmell

**Hubert Heinelt (Hg.):  
Modernes Regieren in China**

Baden-Baden: Nomos, 2014. 184 S.,  
EUR 34,00

Der Sammelband umfasst sieben Beiträge, welche der zentraler Fragestellung nachgehen: „Wie erfolgt in der Volksrepublik China Interessenvermittlung?“ Die Autoren betrachten diese Fragestellung aus unterschiedlichen Perspektiven und liefern überzeugende, teils überraschende Antworten.

Im Einleitungskapitel stellen Heinelt und Zheng verschiedene Konzepte und Regime der Interessenvermittlung vor und führen in die Besonderheiten des chinesischen politischen Systems ein. Die verbleibenden sechs Kapitel nehmen bei der Betrachtung von Teilaspekten des Systems Bezug auf diesen Rahmen. Hartwig und Cheng behandeln den Ausbau innerparteilicher Demokratie in der Kommunistischen Partei Chinas (KPCh). Am Beispiel der Dorf- und Gemeindewahlen zeigt Schubert den Unterschied zwischen Anspruch und Wirklichkeit der Reformen seit den 1990er Jahren auf. Ahlers zeichnet in ihrem Kapitel zur administrativen Interessenvermittlung die Stärkung der Bürger gegenüber der Verwaltung nach. Weigel-Schwiedrzik und Klotzbücher erörtern in ihrer Fallstudie zur Verbesserung der Krankenversorgung von Nomaden in Xinjiang das Dilemma von Lokalregierungen. Mit nur unzureichenden Mitteln müssen sie gleichsam die Vorgaben der Zentralregierung und die Anliegen der Bevölkerung erfüllen. Noesselt schließt aus der Analyse von Regierungsdokumenten und Redebeiträgen der neuen Führungselite um Xi Jinping auf den Raum für Wandel der Interaktionsmuster zwischen Staat und Gesellschaft. Trotz Offenheit für die Einführung von in westlichen Demokratien angewandten Instrumenten, wie eine Stärkung der Rechtssicherheit, lehnt die Elite jegliche Änderungen, welche die zentrale Machtposition der KPCh in Frage stellen, weiterhin kategorisch ab. Im Abschlusskapitel bezieht sich ten Brink auf das System der Arbeitsbeziehungen in