



## Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies



**SPECIAL ASSESSMENT**

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# Asia's Bilateral Relations

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## Foreword

**H . C . S T A C K P O L E**

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This assessment looks at the influence of Asia's bilateral relations in a highly charged and greatly changed world on the cusp of the twenty-first century. Relationships between China and India, China and Japan, and Russia and Japan, will have important implications for the region's overall strategic picture in the decades ahead. Two common elements emerge in this march through a seeming maze of bilateral relations between highly diverse nations seeking to escape the maze. One common element is economic interdependence driven by globalization powered by information technology. The other is the recognition of having to deal with terrorism with a multilateral approach. Bilateral relations in the region form the foundation for a multinational approach based on mutual benefit. The question is whether cooperation augurs well for acceptance of U.S. security leadership or will there be the emergence of a greater balance with the other nations achieving a degree of true equity in the creation of a stable Asia-Pacific region with balanced interests. In short, the central concerns of these analyses is how regional relationships affect, and are affected by, the United States.

The Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies teaching and research faculty, in an effort to better understand the dynamics of these relationships and their implications for the United States and to share results of its findings with the wider government and analytic community, has produced this Special Assessment entitled *Asia's Bilateral Relations*. This is the third issue of our Special Assessment series.

I am pleased to present this publication with the hope that it will advance discussion and inform policy about Asia-Pacific security issues not only among the military and civilian leaders who attend our College of Security Studies executive and senior executive courses, but also among the government and policy analysis communities on both sides of the Pacific. It is by contributing to such discussions that the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies meets its mission to complement Pacific Command's (PACOM's) theater security cooperation strategy of maintaining positive security relationships with nations in the region as well as to enhance cooperation, and build relationships for a secure Asia-Pacific.