

Ravi Vohra and
P.K. Ghosh (Ed),
*China and the
Indian Ocean Region*

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China and the Indian Ocean Region, 2008,
National Maritime Foundation, Anmaya Publishers

This book is based on an International Seminar organized by the National Maritime Foundation titled “China and the Indian Ocean Region. The book has ten chapters which cover a number of aspects related to the security and politics involved in the Indian Ocean region. The papers in the book highlight the fact that the Chinese undertakings vis-à-vis the Indian Ocean is primarily aimed at securing the sea lanes of commerce. Today China is heavily depended on the import of its energy and resources in order to run the economy. The major route of this transport runs through the Malacca Strait. China is very concerned of the fact that if in the near future any country tries to block this channel then it will have adverse effect on the Chinese economy. In order to keep this channel functional, Beijing is showing increased interest in this area.

Though the contributors agree that the major Chinese build up in the naval field is Taiwan centric, there is an underlying understanding that these growing forays can prove to be problematic from the Indian security point of view. This is in view of the fact that China has managed to build strategic inroads in the region with close co-operations with countries like Bangladesh, Myanmar and Pakistan. Today, Nepal and Sri Lanka also appear to be diplomatically more close to China as compared to India. This can be a cause of concern for the Indian security.

The book has chapters by Indian authors like Mira Sinha Bhattacharjea, Mohan Guruswamy, Raja Menon, Lalit Mansingh, Talmiz Ahmand, Vinod C. Khanna and Satish Chandra. The book thus provides a much nuanced Indian perspective on the issue. The book also covers almost all the aspects of this issue: from strategic to economic and also makes some futuristic remarks. This also makes the book a must read for scholars following this development. 

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