

China,India and future of Asia

Abstract:

China and India, two rising powers, hold the key to the future of Asia. In keeping with the spirit of anti-colonialism of 19-20th century Asian stalwarts like Liang Qichao, Rabindranath Tagore, Kang Youwei , M K Gandhi and Sun Yat Sen, China must find a way to collaborate and cooperate rather than sink into competition and conflict , surely not at the behest of US which is seeking a neo-containment of China through Obama's much touted Asian pivot . If the 21st century is truly going to be Asian century, it will not merely depend on China's and India's economic and military prowess but on a new politics for the continent that is home of several early civilisations, most religions and shared values broadly called Eastern or Oriental. China and India have the civilisational depth to provide that kind of leadership and a beginning seems to have been made by Li Keqiang's "handshake across the Himalayas". But while China will have to restrain itself on South China sea, India will have to stop playing big brother in South Asia to set the right kind of leadership example. Japan will have to fall in line and avoid a repeat of militant nationalism that reduced its early Asianism to a strategy of domination in 1940s and discredited it. The future of Asia as a zone of peace and prosperity can be secured only by redefining diplomacy and getting rid of European concepts of balance of power and containment.