Negative Brief: Philippines

By Jonathan T. Helton & "Coach Vance" Trefethen

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Negative: Philippines

NEGATIVE PHILOSOPHY

Idealism can harm U.S. interests

Dr. Ghaidaa Hetou 2018 (researcher and academic focusing on security, foreign policy and political risk in the Middle East and North Africa; teaches at Rutgers Univ. and founder of iStrategic LLC, a political risk consulting company specializing in advising U.S. businesses in the Middle East & North Africa.) 27 Nov 2018 “Escaping the Idealism Trap” (accessed 23 Jan 2023) https://thestrategybridge.org/the-bridge/2018/11/27/escaping-the-idealism-trap?rq=philippines

Good intentions among idealists who intend to expand freedoms and introduce democracy in other nations cannot justify the persistence of Idealism in U.S. foreign policy if the outcome is consistently incompatible with and downright harmful to U.S. national interests. While realism is gradually regaining ground among foreign policy strategists, the foreign policy establishment in the United States is unsure how to disassociate from its idealist/liberal orientation without losing its distinct and exceptional foreign policy character as a protector of human freedoms.

GOAL / CRITERION RESPONSES - "Human Rights" shouldn't be the "goal" nor the criterion for a ballot

US national interests - duty to its own citizens - take priority over other foreign policy goals

Doug Bandow 2021 (senior fellow at the Cato Institute, specializing in foreign policy and civil liberties. He worked as special assistant to President Ronald Reagan; JD from Stanford Univ.) “Eight Ways We Can Serve US Interests and Pursue Human Rights Too” 28 May 2021 (accessed 7 Sept 2022) <https://www.cato.org/commentary/eight-ways-we-can-serve-us-interests-pursue-human-rights-too>

“The central purpose of Washington’s international strategy should be to advance the interests of the American people. That means protecting them along with their territory, constitutional system, liberties, and prosperity. These objectives transcend the many other goals routinely set by governments.”

Duty to US national security outweighs

Jordan Cohen 2022 (policy analyst in defense and foreign policy at the Cato Institute) 11 July 2022 “Where Is The Red Carpet? Biden’s Inane Trip To Saudi Arabia” https://www.cato.org/blog/where-red-carpet-bidens-inane-trip-saudi-arabia (accessed 7 Sept 2022)

“Biden only briefly hand‐​waves at human rights considerations in Saudi Arabia. He notes that “there are many who disagree with my decision to travel to Saudi Arabia,” but clarifies that his “views on human rights are clear and longstanding” and that his job is to “keep our country strong and secure.”

Human rights cannot be "THE" goal: There are other objectives we must consider that may outweigh

Report of the Commission on Unalienable Rights July, 2020 (The commission, composed of academics, philosophers, and activists, was charged with providing the U.S. government with advice on human rights) “Report of the Commission of Unalienable Right” July 2020 (Accessed Sep 7, 2022) <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Draft-Report-of-the-Commission-on-Unalienable-Rights.pdf>

“Although human rights are interdependent and indivisible, certain distinctions among them are inherent in the Universal Declaration itself, as well as in the positive law of human rights that follows from the UDHR. While it is important to affirm the interdependence of all rights that pertain to human dignity, U.S. foreign policy can and should consider which rights most accord with national principles and interests at any given time. Such judgments must take into consideration both the distinctive American contributions to the human rights project and also prudential judgments about current conditions, threats, and opportunities. “

HARMS / SIGNIFICANCE

1. Human Rights in the Philippines - improving

New President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. is on the right path - give him a chance to turn things around

Joshua Kurlantzick 2022. (senior fellow for Southeast Asia at the Council on Foreign Relations) 22 Nov 2022 "Marcos Jr. Tries to Escape Duterte’s Legacy, But Can He Be Trusted?" (accessed 23 Jan 2023) https://www.cfr.org/blog/marcos-jr-tries-escape-dutertes-legacy-can-he-be-trusted

Despite coming to power as the son of a brutal dictator, via a campaign [rife with disinformation](https://www.newyorker.com/news/dispatch/the-triumph-of-marcos-dynasty-disinformation-is-a-warning-to-the-us) and whitewashing of his family’s past, Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has thus far tried, to a significant extent, to break with his predecessor, the brutal and often unhinged Rodrigo Duterte. He has particularly made this break on foreign policy, but also on many domestic policies, giving hope that, surprisingly, Marcos Jr. might prove a bulwark against the greater erosion of the rule of law in the Philippines.

Pres. Marcos is reforming away from the bloody anti-drug campaign of his predecessor Duterte

JAKARTA POST 2022. (Indonesia newspaper) 14 Sept 2022 "Marcos Jr won’t follow Duterte’s bloody approach to drug war" (accessed 23 Jan 2023) https://www.thejakartapost.com/world/2022/09/14/marcos-jr-wont-follow-dutertes-bloody-approach-to-drug-war.html

In his first sit-down interview since he won the presidency in May, Marcos said that he wants to run an anti-drug campaign that is holistic, focusing more on prevention and rehabilitation. He said kids would be taught about the bad effects of drugs, while the government would give proper treatment to drug addicts. “The war on drugs will continue, but we will have to do it a different way,” Marcos said. “In fact, right now, we are trying to formulate what is the best way for the rehabilitation programme. These are all being formulated”. This is a stark contrast to the enforcement-heavy policy started by the Duterte administration in 2016.

2. Philippine people don’t see the harm

Philippine people support the US because they want security against Chinese aggression

Julie McCarthy 2021 (International Correspondent, South East Asia, for National Public Radio ) 6 Aug 2021 "4 Things To Know After The Philippines Kept Its Pact With The U.S. Military" (accessed 23 Jan 2023) https://www.npr.org/2021/08/06/1025287447/philippines-united-states-military-agreement-analysis

According to [public opinion surveys](https://www.sws.org.ph/swsmain/artcldisppage/?artcsyscode=ART-20200719141007), Filipinos widely distrust China while they express a significant degree of [trust for the United States](https://www.sws.org.ph/swsmain/artcldisppage/?artcsyscode=ART-20191207075510). And [nearly half](https://www.sws.org.ph/swsmain/artcldisppage/?artcsyscode=ART-20210728104853) of adult Filipinos say the government isn't doing enough to assert the country's rights in the South China Sea.

Citizens of the Philippines support military cooperation with the U.S.

Dr. Steven Rood 2012 (formerly The Asia Foundation’s country representative for the Philippines and Pacific Island Nations.. Was professor of Political Science at the University of the Philippines College Baguio from 1981 - 1999) 1 February 2012 “U.S. Military and the Philippines: What do Philippine Citizens Really Think?” (accessed 23 Jan 2023) https://asiafoundation.org/2012/02/01/u-s-military-and-the-philippines-what-do-philippine-citizens-really-think/

This issue may be seen as controversial among the policy elite heard in the media or the halls of Congress. But for the average citizen of the Philippines, there is no controversy. The American forces are welcome. Consistently, Social Weather Stations data from national probability sample surveys show that the majority feels that the Philippines benefits from military cooperation with the United States. Asked what country is the most reliable ally of the Philippines, some 80 percent name the United States, with no other country even reaching double digits. Fifty-nine percent say that it is important to maintain a close alliance with the United States, while only 15 percent disagree.

SOLVENCY

1. Alternative suppliers

Then-President Duterte pointed out the obvious: They can buy weapons elsewhere if we don't sell them

Wade Shepard 2016 (journalist; featured in, interviewed by, or appeared on CNBC Squawk Box, CBC The Current, Forbes.com, VICE, NPR Morning Edition, and BBC World.) 11 October 2016 “Is The U.S. Pushing Yet Another Country Into Closer Ties With China?” https://www.forbes.com/sites/wadeshepard/2016/10/11/is-the-u-s-pushing-the-philippines-into-closer-ties-with-china/#51e9cfe01706

"If you don't want to sell arms, I'll go to Russia. I sent the generals to Russia and Russia said 'do not worry, we have everything you need, we'll give it to you.' And as for China, they said 'just come over and sign and everything will be delivered,'" was one of Duterte's much-quoted statements.

DISADVANTAGES

1. Philippine alignment with China

Link: Pres. Marcos could easily turn to China

*Richard Javad Heydarian 2022 (academic and columnist based in Manila) 30 Jan 2022 "*How will Duterte’s successor deal with China?" (accessed 23 Jan 2023) https://www.eastasiaforum.org/2022/01/30/how-will-dutertes-successor-deal-with-china/

Bongbong Marcos is the only popular candidate to have [openly backed continuity](https://www.rappler.com/nation/elections/reason-why-bong-go-has-not-filed-withdrawal-papers-2022-polls/) in Philippine foreign policy towards China by emphasising the futility of confrontation and the value of robust economic cooperation with the Asian powerhouse. His father, the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, was one of the first leaders among top US allies in Asia to open communication channels and [formalise bilateral relations](https://www.nytimes.com/1975/06/08/archives/mao-welcomes-marcos-and-his-family.html) with Maoist China in the mid-1970s. Anticipating warm ties under a Marcos Jr presidency, Chinese Ambassador to the Philippines Huang Xilian [has openly fawned](https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/10/20/21/chinese-envoy-fawns-over-marcos-jr) over the current frontrunner.

Link: Growing Chinese security role in the Philippines, including arms transfers

Dr. Prashanth Parameswaran 2017 (Senior Editor at The Diplomat. PhD and MA in international relations from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts Univ) 5 October 2017 “What’s in the New China Military Aid to the Philippines?” [Brackets added] https://thediplomat.com/2017/10/whats-in-the-new-china-military-aid-to-the-philippines/

China’s growing security role in the Philippines is a storyline that we will likely continue to see in the coming months. [Chinese Ambassador] Zhao [Jianhua] was keen to point out that the Chinese government was already preparing to transfer a third batch of military assistance to Manila. And China, Philippine defense officials say, has also been pushing for more robust forms of security cooperation that have yet to be realized.

Example: China gave the Philippines three million rounds of ammo

Dr. Prashanth Parameswaran 2017 (Senior Editor at The Diplomat. PhD and MA in international relations from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts Univ) 5 October 2017 “What’s in the New China Military Aid to the Philippines?” [Brackets added] https://thediplomat.com/2017/10/whats-in-the-new-china-military-aid-to-the-philippines/

On October 5, Beijing delivered a second batch of equipment in a handover ceremony held in Camp Aguinaldo and attended by Zhao as well as Philippine defense officials including Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana and AFP Chief of Staff General Eduardo Ano. The assistance included 3,000 units of rifles, 3,000,000 rounds of assorted ammunition, and 30 sniper cones. Most of the rifles will be turned over to the Special Action Force (SAF) of the Philippine National Police (PNP), while the scopes will remain with the AFP.

Brink: Long-term cracks in US/Philippines alliance based on lack of confidence in US ability to help them defend their interests

Prof. Hal Brands 2019 (*Bloomberg columnist and a professor at Johns Hopkins University*) 23 Sept 2019 “A Filipino battleground in China-U.S. cool war” (accessed 23 Jan 2023) https://www.japantimes.co.jp/opinion/2019/09/23/commentary/world-commentary/filipino-battleground-china-u-s-cool-war/#.XZEDpkZKhPY

To some extent, then, this rough period may simply reflect bad luck and the vagaries of democratic politics. Yet this is not the whole story; the shakiness of the alliance is not just a matter of personality. It also reflects how greatly the regional balance of power is shifting — and that Duterte knows it. He and others are losing confidence in America’s ability to help the Philippines defend its interests. This crisis of confidence has been building for years, even when bilateral cooperation was still improving.

Brink: US on the brink of losing East Asia hegemony to China

Prof. Jennifer Lind 2018 (associate professor of government at Dartmouth Univ.) “Life in China’s Asia What Regional Hegemony Would Look Like” (accessed 23 Jan 2023) https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/china/2018-02-13/life-chinas-asia

For now, the United States remains the dominant power in East Asia, but China is quickly closing the gap. Although an economic crisis or domestic political turmoil could derail China’s rise, if current trends continue, China will before long supplant the United States as the region’s economic, military, and political hegemon.

Link & Brink: Philippines is critical to determining outcome of US/China competition for hegemony

Richard Heydarian 2018 (Manila-based academic and columnist; has written for the world’s leading publications on Asian geopolitics, including The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Guardian, and Foreign Affairs) 28 Nov 2018 (accessed 23 Jan 2023) https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2018/11/28/chinas-premature-bid-for-hegemony-in-southeast-asia/

Singapore’s Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong underscored the stark implications of rising Sino-American tensions for smaller regional states, which may eventually be forced to “to take sides,” even if not having to do so is “very desirable.” As a regional swing state and an American treaty ally, the Philippines has emerged as a critical node in the ongoing Sino-American competition for regional primacy.

Link: China wants Asia hegemony, wants to replace U.S. in the region

Prof. Oriana Mastro 2019 (Assistant Professor of Security Studies at Georgetown Univ) Jan/Feb 2019 “The Stealth Superpower” (accessed 23 Jan 2023) https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/china/china-plan-rule-asia

China has no interest in establishing a web of global alliances, sustaining a far-flung global military presence, sending troops thousands of miles from its borders, leading international institutions that would constrain its own behavior, or spreading its system of government abroad. But to focus on this reluctance, and the reassuring Chinese statements reflecting it, is a mistake. Although China does not want to usurp the United States’ position as the leader of a global order, its actual aim is nearly as consequential. In the Indo-Pacific region, China wants complete dominance; it wants to force the United States out and become the region’s unchallenged political, economic, and military hegemon. And globally, even though it is happy to leave the United States in the driver’s seat, it wants to be powerful enough to counter Washington when needed.

Link: China gaining Asian regional hegemony leads to gaining global hegemony, replacing USA

Min-Hyung Kim 2019 (Dept of Political Science and International Relations, Kyung Hee University, South Korea) 4 Feb 2019 “A real driver of US–China trade conflict: The Sino–US competition for global hegemony and its implications for the future” (accessed 23 Jan 2023) https://www.emerald.com/insight/content/doi/10.1108/ITPD-02-2019-003/full/html

Although China repeatedly claims that it does not seek to replace US hegemony in the world, its behavior revealed by the initiatives of the BRI, the AIIB and Made in China 2015 illustrates that its ultimate goal is to be a global hegemon. This is not surprising because all the rising powers in history invariably sought to first dominate the region they are situated (Mearsheimer, 2011, 2014) and expand their power globally (Gilpin, 1981).

Link & Brink: The Philippines are the lynchpin for U.S. regional goals

Ely Ratner 2017 (senior fellow in China studies at Council on Foreign Relations; former deputy national security adviser to VP Joe Biden.) 3 May 2017 “Why Trump Was Right to Invite Duterte to the White House” (accessed 23 Jan 2023) <https://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2017/05/03/trump-invite-duterte-white-house-philippines-215095>

The Philippines isn’t the first country in Southeast Asia to begin sliding into China’s orbit, but it is by far the most consequential for the United States. Despite Duterte’s transgressions, the Philippines remains a linchpin for U.S. regional strategy as a thriving democracy, the only treaty ally surrounding the South China Sea, and, until recently, a critical voice for international law and in regional institutions. In fact, America’s vision of an open and inclusive regional order will be difficult to realize without the Philippines on board. Put another way, further deterioration of the U.S.-Philippines relationship will not only undermine America’s position in Southeast Asia, it would likely usher in a China-led sub-region void of institutions and incentives to advance U.S. values.

Impact: World peace & prosperity at risk without US influence. US hegemony is key to global peace & prosperity

Capt. M. V. Prato 2009 (United States Marine Corps, Command and Staff College, Marine Corps Combat Development Command,Marine Corps University) “The Need for American Hegemony” https://apps.dtic.mil/sti/citations/ADA508040

The world witnessed a vast shift in the polarity of geopolitics after the Cold War. The United States became the world’s greatest hegemon with an unequalled ability to globally project cultural, political, economic, and military power in a manner not seen since the days of the Roman Empire. Coined the “unipolar moment” by syndicated columnist Charles Krauthammer, the disparity of power between the U.S. and all other nations allows the U.S. to influence the world for the mutual benefit of all responsible states. Unfortunately, the United States is increasingly forced to act unilaterally as a result of both foreign and domestic resentment to U.S. dominance and the rise of liberal internationalism. The United States must exercise benevolent global hegemony, unilaterally if necessary, to ensure its security and maintain global peace and prosperity.

2. South China Sea Conflict

Link: China is becoming more aggressive in the region

Gregory Poling and Conor Cronin 2018 (Poling is director of the Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative and a fellow with the Southeast Asia Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, DC. He oversees research on U.S. foreign policy in the Asia Pacific. Cronin is a research associate with the Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative and was previously a research associate with the Southeast Asia Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.) 17 May 2018 “THE DANGERS OF ALLOWING U.S.-PHILIPPINE DEFENSE COOPERATION TO LANGUISH” (accessed 23 Jan 2023) https://warontherocks.com/2018/05/the-dangers-of-allowing-u-s-philippine-defense-cooperation-to-languish/

Changes to the regional security environment in the four years since EDCA was signed have made Article 1 of the agreement more prescient than negotiators intended. Without robust implementation, both sides will find it increasingly difficult to “maintain and develop their individual and collective capacity to resist armed attack,” at least within the South China Sea. China has constructed three large air and naval bases in the contested Spratly Islands, which are now primed for deployments of combat aircraft and have reportedly been equipped with surface-to-air and anti-ship cruise missiles. Every ship or plane near the Spratly Islands is now operating inside Chinese missile range, and will soon be within the combat radius of Chinese fighter jets.

Link & Brink: Philippines is critical to defense against China in the South China Sea

Jack Detsch 2021 (Pentagon and national security reporter at *Foreign Policy*) 7 Apr 2021 FOREIGN POLICY "Philippines Leaning Toward Allowing U.S. Troops After All" (accessed 23 Jan 2023) https://foreignpolicy.com/2021/04/07/philippines-us-military-duterte-biden/

“The thing that the U.S. has not been clear about is just how much the Philippines and access to the Philippines is critical to the Indo-Pacific strategy,” said Greg Poling, a senior fellow for Southeast Asia and director of the Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a Washington think tank. “Without the Philippines, at best you’re saying you have a strategy for countering Chinese [anti-access capabilities] in East Asia and Micronesia, but you have no strategy for the South China Sea.”

Brink: The South China Sea is the “most dangerous area in the world” – any spark can set off conflagration

Professor Kerry Gershaneck and Captain James Fanell 2019 (Gershaneck is a Visiting Scholar at the Graduate Institute of East Asian Studies, National Chengchi University, Taiwan. A former U.S. Marine Corps officer, he was previously the Distinguished Visiting Professor at Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy in Thailand, as well as a Senior Research Associate with CPG at Thammasat University (Bangkok). Fanell, U.S. Navy (Ret.) is a Government Fellow at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy, Switzerland. He served as a career naval intelligence officer whose positions included the Chief of Intelligence for the U.S. Pacific Fleet) 30 April 2019 “Just How Bad a South China Sea War Could Get” (accessed 23 Jan 2023) https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/just-how-bad-south-china-sea-war-could-get-54992

“Today the South China Sea is the most dangerous area in the world,” observed Gregson, a seasoned U.S. Marine Corps combat veteran. “Hostile statements and aggressive actions create dry tinder, awaiting only a spark to burst into conflagration—with unimagined consequences.”

Link & Brink: Strong US/Philippine alliance is critical to deterring aggression in the South China Sea

NEW YORK TIMES 2019 (journalist Jason Gutierrez) 16 July 2019 “As Duterte Courts China, U.S. Says Don’t Forget Your Old Friend” (accessed 23 Jan 2023) https://www.nytimes.com/2019/07/16/world/asia/philippines-united-states-duterte.html

The South China Sea, a mineral-rich maritime region and a vital waterway for international shipping, is claimed in whole or in part by China, the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia, Taiwan, Vietnam and Indonesia. Over the last week, ships from Vietnam and China have been in a tense standoff over a reef in the Spratly Islands. David Stilwell, the assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, said Washington’s continued partnership with Manila “is critical for realizing our shared vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific with thriving sovereign nations.” “A strong U.S.-Philippines alliance deters aggression and promotes regional stability, and we welcome enhanced defense cooperation with the Philippines,” he said, adding that the United States seeks “partnership, not domination.”

Link & Brink: China / Philippines heading for violent incident in disputed waters

Gregory Poling and Eric Sayers 2019 (Poling is director of the Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative and a fellow with the Southeast Asia Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington. Sayers is Adjunct Senior Fellow at the Center for a New American Security (CNAS). He previously worked as a Professional Staff Member on the Senate Armed Services Committee and Special Assistant to the Commander at U.S. Indo-Pacific Command.) 21 Jan 2019 “TIME TO MAKE GOOD ON THE U.S.-PHILIPPINE ALLIANCE” [Brackets added] (accessed 23 Jan 2023) https://warontherocks.com/2019/01/time-to-make-good-on-the-u-s-philippine-alliance/

If Philippine vessels and planes continue to operate and assert their rights in disputed waters, then eventually there will be a violent incident involving Chinese forces, whether intentional or not. Beijing has exponentially increased the number of assets deployed in contested waters and continues to operate them in a dangerous manner against its neighbors, which makes the status quo inherently unstable. [Philippine Secretary of National Defense Delfin] Lorenzana knows this as well as anyone. Before that day comes, he needs to know that the United States will be there to deter China from escalating the situation and, if necessary, to intervene directly to defend Philippine personnel and platforms. Just as importantly, he needs to convince skeptics in the administration, especially President Duterte, of that fact so that they will endorse a policy of continued reliance on the United States and defiance of China’s claims.

Link: Philippines’ navy is falling apart, unlikely they can defend maritime claims

Doug Bandow 2016 (senior fellow at the Cato Institute, specializing in foreign policy and civil liberties.) 20 October 2016 “America Should Drop Philippines Alliance: Thank Rodrigo Duterte for Encouraging Divorce” (accessed 23 Jan 2023) https://www.cato.org/publications/commentary/america-should-drop-philippines-alliance-thank-rodrigo-duterte-encouraging

For a country determined to confront Beijing at sea, the Filipino navy is a particular disappointment. Explained journalist Joseph Trevithick: "The archipelago's sailing force is made up of half-century-old-antiques—and is falling apart." In fact, the navy's three finest ships are retired U.S. Coast Guard cutters. The flagship Gregorio del Pilar will be a half century old next year. No wonder IISS warned that "it remains unlikely that the Philippines will be able to provide more than a token national capability to defend its maritime claims."

Link: U.S. and Philippines must have a good relationship in order for the Philippines to protect their rights

Gregory Poling and Eric Sayers 2018 (Poling is director of the Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative and a fellow with the Southeast Asia Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington. Sayers is an Adjunct Senior Fellow at the Center for a New American Security. He previously worked as a Professional Staff Member on the Senate Armed Services Committee and as a Special Assistant to the Commander at U.S. Indo-Pacific Command.) 21 January 2019 “TIME TO MAKE GOOD ON THE U.S.-PHILIPPINE ALLIANCE” (accessed 23 Jan 2023) https://warontherocks.com/2019/01/time-to-make-good-on-the-u-s-philippine-alliance/

China’s pursuit of its illegal claims and its militarization of disputed features in the South China Sea threatens long-standing U.S. interests in the freedom of the seas and the stability of the Indo-Pacific. Successfully defending those interests requires that China’s neighbors, especially the Philippines, continue to believe in U.S. staying power and remain willing to contest Beijing’s demand for vast rights in contested waters.

Link: Southeast Asia needs a counterweight to China

Prof. Jay Batongbacal 2020 (Professor and Executive Associate Dean of the Univ. of the Philippines College of Law, and also Director of the Institute for Maritime Affairs & Law of the Sea. He was a legal advisor to the Philippines when it submitted a successful claim to an extended continental shelf in the Benham Rise Region.) 18 February 2020 “Pushing the Philippines-U.S. Alliance Over the Cliff” (accessed 23 Jan 2023) <https://www.realcleardefense.com/articles/2020/02/18/pushing_the_philippines-us_alliance_over_the_cliff_115050.html>

Although most of maritime Southeast Asia is wary of the U.S., it also recognises that it is the only possible counterweight to China’s excessive power and influence. Keeping the two powers in a predictable balance within a norm-based order is the only way for smaller countries to have the room they need for autonomous development in an interconnected and interdependent world. The loss of balance threatens the norm-based order; if it gives way to one that is purely power-based, then Southeast Asia risks regressing into a neo-colonial network of smaller states subordinate to the requirements of the strong.

Link: Trillions of dollars of trade passes through the South China Sea

Everett Rosenfeld 2014 (Staff writer at CNBC) “Chinese naval push could affect global trade.” August 29th, 2014. (accessed 23 Jan 2023) http://www.cnbc.com/2014/08/29/china-vietnam-philippines-conflict-in-south-china-sea-could-wreck-the-economy.html

The U.S. Commerce Department estimated that the United States exported $79 billion in goods to the countries around the South China Sea in 2013, and imported $127 billion from them that year. Including goods simply passing through, Navy Adm. Robert Willard estimated in 2011 that the region accounts for $5.3 trillion in bilateral annual trade—of which $1.2 trillion is U.S. trade

Link: South China Sea is a massive trade network

Robert D. Kaplan 2016. (Author on American foreign affairs. His work has appeared in The Atlantic. The Washington Post, The New York Times, and The Wall Street Journal. He is also a senior fellow at the Center for New American Security). “The South China Sea will be the battleground of the future.” February 2nd, 2016. (accessed 23 Jan 2023) http://www.businessinsider.com/why-the-south-china-sea-is-so-crucial-2015-2

The South China Sea functions as the throat of the Western Pacific and Indian oceans — the mass of connective economic tissue where global sea routes coalesce. Here is the heart of Eurasia’s navigable rimland, punctuated by the Malacca, Sunda, Lombok, and Makassar straits. More than half of the world’s annual merchant fleet tonnage passes through these choke points, and a third of all maritime traffic worldwide.

Link: Widespread fear that China will impede shipping trade

Michael Schuman 2016. (Writer about Asia and global economic issues as a correspondent for TIME in Beijing, China) “A South China Sea of Uncertainty.” June 10th, 2016. (accessed 23 Jan 2023) http://www.usnews.com/news/best-countries/articles/2016-06-10/why-you-need-to-care-about-the-south-china-sea

All parties have reason to dig in. The South China Sea is a major thoroughfare of commerce – some $5.3 trillion in trade passes through each year – and the U.S. and its allies fear China might try to impede this critical shipping. There is also speculation that there are significant resources of natural gas and oil still untapped in the sea, which could be exploited by whichever nation can assert its claims.

Link: Supply line disruption – the U.S. does not have other bases near the South China Sea

Caroline Baxter 2020 (senior policy analyst at the RAND Corporation, where she focuses on issues related to operational strategy, base resiliency, expeditionary warfare, and military readiness.) 27 February 2020 (accessed 23 Jan 2023) <https://www.fpri.org/article/2020/02/if-u-s-forces-have-to-leave-the-philippines-then-what/>

Without the Philippines, U.S. forces would be faced with a series of math and physics problems from fighting from much further away. The closest military facilities to the South China Sea are in Okinawa (approximately 1,000 miles), South Korea (1,600 miles), mainland Japan (2,000 miles), Guam (2,000 miles), and Darwin, Australia (2,300 miles). Such distances present a number of logistical and operational complications. Because their path would largely take them over open ocean, forces flowing from Japan or South Korea would not travel through foreign airspace, allowing for a much straighter and faster course. However, they would be coming from—and moving through—areas well within the range of a sizeable Chinese missile quiver. To reduce that vulnerability, operational planners might be forced to move the bulk of these units to Guam and Australia.

Impact: Substantial Global Economic Damage

Everett Rosenfeld 2014 (Staff writer at CNBC) “Chinese naval push could affect global trade.” August 29th, 2014. (accessed 23 Jan 2023) http://www.cnbc.com/2014/08/29/china-vietnam-philippines-conflict-in-south-china-sea-could-wreck-the-economy.html

One such risk is that if a flare-up were to arise between China and one of its smaller neighbors, those global trade routes could be affected, hurting the world economy, Dutton said. "The impact of a disruption for even a period of three weeks would be substantial," he said, adding that he did not consider any outright conflict in the region to be especially likely, although the possibility remains.

Impact: Global trade costs would go up

Michael Schuman 2016. (Writer about Asia and global economic issues as a correspondent for TIME in Beijing, China) “A South China Sea of Uncertainty.” June 10th, 2016. (accessed 23 Jan 2023) http://www.usnews.com/news/best-countries/articles/2016-06-10/why-you-need-to-care-about-the-south-china-sea

"Our concern becomes that China, because it defines its rights broadly to control areas under its maritime jurisdiction, reserves for itself the right to ban foreign military movement," Dutton said. If this were to occur, other countries may begin to enforce similar principles. The entire system of global trade would consequently become more costly because the presence of strong, oftentimes Western, navies "tends to dampen disruption," and China's navy isn't strong enough to police the region on its own, Dutton said.

Impact: Trade impact makes South China Sea “Vital Interest” to the United States

Rear Admiral Michael McDevitt 2014. (US Navy (Ret.) is a senior fellow with CNA Strategic Studies. Over his 15 years at CNA, as both a vice president and now as a fellow, he has had a number of papers dealing with security issues in Asia published.) “The South China Sea: Assessing U.S. Policy and Options for the Future.” November 2014. (accessed 23 Jan 2023) https://www.cna.org/CNA\_files/PDF/IOP-2014-U-009109.pdf

During testimony before the Senate in 2012, then secretary of state Hillary Clinton made the point that the first, of the aforementioned aspects of freedom of navigation in the South China Sea was a “vital interest.” Data tend to support this claim. More than half of the world's annual merchant fleet tonnage passes through the Strait of Malacca, and the Indonesian Straits of Sunda, and Lombok. These straits link the Indian Ocean with the South China Sea, and most of that maritime traffic is either coming from or going onward through the South China Sea. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), almost a third of global crude oil and over half of global LNG trade passes through the South China Sea, making it one of the most important trade routes in the world. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Review of Maritime Transport 2011 estimated that 8.4 billion

Impact: Economic harm. Backing down on Chinese domination of South China Sea reduces investment and harms economy of the region

Prof. Panos Mourdoukoutas 2019 (Professor and Chair of the Department of Economics at LIU Post in New York; teaches at Columbia University) 6 Apr 2019 “Philippines Is Beginning To Pay The Price For Duterte's South China Sea Flip-Flops” (accessed 23 Jan 2023) https://www.forbes.com/sites/panosmourdoukoutas/2019/04/06/philippines-is-beginning-to-pay-the-price-for-dutertes-south-china-sea-flip-flops/#695b506728c8

The Philippines is beginning to pay the price for President Rodrigo Duterte’s South China Sea policy flip-flops in the form of repeated challenges to the country’s sovereignty by Beijing. China considers the South China Sea its own sea, all of it. And it seems to be prepared to do whatever it takes to assert control over every tiny island, natural and artificial, in it -- as evidenced by the presence of hundreds of Chinese vessels near a Philippines-administered island in the South China Sea in recent weeks. That’s certainly bad news for neighboring countries -- like the Philippines -- which have competing claims in these territories. And bad news for the future of the economic integration of the region, as it raises geopolitical risks that could eventually turn away foreign investments.

Impact: High risk of war. Chinese naval capabilities, if not deterred, will disrupt peace and stability

William Lowther 2015 (journalist) US analyst urges Japan to sell Taiwan submarines, TAIPEI TIMES 7 Feb 2015 (accessed 23 Jan 2023) http://www.taipeitimes.com/News/taiwan/archives/2015/02/07/2003611010 (brackets added)

Mazza’s study followed testimony by US Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics Frank Kendall before a hearing of the US House Armed Services Committee that China’s military modernization had undermined US superiority. “We’re at risk and the situation is getting worse,” Kendall said. Earlier this week, the former intelligence chief of the US Navy’s Pacific Fleet, Captain James Fanell, said in Honolulu that Beijing was “rejuvenating” and preparing for a military conflict. “China’s rise, if left unchecked or undeterred, will necessarily disrupt the peace and stability of our friends, partners and allies,” Fanell told the Washington Free Beacon Web site.

Impact: Chinese militarization increases risk of nuclear attack on the US homeland

Prof. Shyu-tu Lee 2011. (President of the North American Taiwanese Professors’ Association) “Disengaging from Taiwan” July/Aug 2011 FOREIGN AFFAIRS (accessed 23 Jan 2023) https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/east-asia/2011-07-01/disengaging-taiwan

But by ignoring China's history and economic policy and other relevant factors, Glaser arrives at policy prescriptions that would increase the chance of a Chinese nuclear attack on the U.S. homeland. Glaser misjudges Chinese motives. China's military modernization is not primarily motivated by insecurity, as he asserts. China is not threatened by the United States or any of its neighbors. It is advocating its model of governance -- managed capitalism combined with one-party authoritarianism -- as a more efficient alternative to a free-market economy and democracy. China's mission is to regain its place as the dominant superpower so that the country can cleanse itself of the humiliation it has experienced at the hands of the West.

3. Russia

Link: Philippines is key to US national security and foreign policy in Asia

Prof. Sheena Chestnut Greitens 2017 (nonresident senior fellow with the Center for East Asia Policy Studies; assistant professor of political science at Univ. of Missouri, and associate in research at the Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies at Harvard.) 15 August 2017 “Terrorism in the Philippines and U.S.-Philippine security cooperation” (accessed 23 Jan 2023) https://www.brookings.edu/opinions/terrorism-in-the-philippines-and-u-s-philippine-security-cooperation/

The Philippines is important to American national security and foreign policy in Asia. The country is a former U.S. colony with deep historical and cultural ties to the United States, the world’s 12th largest country by population, a lively democracy, and the region’s fastest-growing economy with a robust trade and investment relationship with the United States. Since signing the Mutual Defense Treaty in 1951, the Philippines has been one of the United States’ two treaty allies in Southeast Asia. Regionally, it is one of our most important security partners in the Asia-Pacific, as the U.S. has sought to expand cooperation throughout the region, including with Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Vietnam.

Link: Russia is ready to sell the Philippines weapons

Sam LaGrone 2017 (editor of USNI News; has covered legislation, acquisition and operations for the Sea Services since 2009 and spent time underway with the U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps and the Canadian Navy.) 4 January 2017 “Russia Wants to Sell Arms to the Philippines, Hold Joint Naval Drills” (accessed 23 Jan 2023) https://news.usni.org/2017/01/04/russia-wants-sell-arms-philippines-hold-joint-naval-drills

As the U.S. relationship with the Philippines has come under rhetorical assault from President Rodrigo Duterte, Moscow has moved closer to Manila offering to sell arms and to start a bilateral military exercise program.
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On Wednesday, Russian Ambassador to the Philippines Igor Anatolyevich Khovaev said that Moscow was ready to supply arms to the Philippines as in addition to the burgeoning military-to-military relationship. “We are ready to supply small arms and light weapons, some airplanes, helicopters, submarines and many, many other weapons. Sophisticated weapons. Not the second-hand ones,” he said on Wednesday, reported *Reuters*.

Link: Philippines draw closer to Russia if relations with US worsen

Michael Peck 2019 (contributing writer for the National Interest.) 14 September 2019 “Is the Philippines Becoming Russia’s Newest Ally?” (accessed 23 Jan 2023) https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/philippines-becoming-russia%E2%80%99s-newest-ally-80541

Indeed, Manila seems to be drawing closer to Moscow even as its relations with Washington have worsened. In March 2019, Russian and Philippine officials met to discuss apotential naval pact. In April, two Russian warships docked in Manila. The port visit included “joint drills on navigation and communication as well as special trainings with the quick response forces of the Philippines,” according to thePhilippine government. It was the sixth visit of Russian warships, which was reciprocated by the first-ever Philippine Navy ship that sailed to Vladivostok in July for a naval parade marking Russian Navy Day.

Link: Big mistake to neglect or alienate Philippines – drives them to align with China and Russia

Anna Saberon 2018 (teaches Philosophy and International Relations at Ateneo de Naga University in the Philippines) 24 October 2018 “PHILIPPINE DEFENSE COOPERATION WITH RUSSIA: A WAKE-UP CALL FOR THE UNITED STATES?” (accessed 23 Jan 2023) https://www.eastwestcenter.org/publications/philippine-defense-cooperation-russia-wake-call-the-united-states

The new defense cooperation between the Philippines and Russia represents a wake-up call for the United States. No longer the ‘little brother’ of the US, no longer dependent on US foreign policy decisions, no longer pleased with leftovers, spare/used equipment from the United States, and no longer naïve; the Philippines is out to pursue an independent foreign policy. Washington should bear in mind that neglecting the Philippines has repercussions. If indeed it is true that the United States is a strong ally of the Philippines, then it seems that a few mistakes have been made: a) refusing to give priority to the Philippines and b) failure in preparation as they did not anticipate that the Philippines would turn to its neighbors, in particular China and Russia.

Link & Brink: Philippines turning to Russia = collapse of US hegemony

**Gaea Katreena Cabico 2018 (journalist) 6 Dec** 2018 “Philippines’ pivot to Russia may signal decline of US hegemony — political science prof” (accessed 23 Jan 2023) https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2018/12/06/1874742/philippines-pivot-russia-may-signal-decline-us-hegemony-political-science-prof#aT8hbKz2tu3eimeY.99

The pivot of President Rodrigo Duterte to Russia, a non-traditional ally of the Philippines, may show the collapse of a United States-dominated unipolar world, a Polish political science professor said. Krystian Cholaszczynski, a visiting professor from the College of Social and Media Culture in Torun, Poland, called move of the Philippines to deepen its ties with alternative power like Russia a “symbolic situation.”

Impact: Apocalyptic consequences without US hegemony. Loss of peace, prosperity, democracy, world order

Brook Manville 2018 (principal of Brook Manville LLC, consulting on strategy and organization) 14 Oct 2018 “Why A Crumbling World Order Urgently Needs U.S. Leadership” FORBES (accessed 23 Jan 2023) https://www.forbes.com/sites/brookmanville/2018/10/14/why-a-crumbling-world-order-urgently-needs-u-s-leadership/#2bb8912f2e61 (brackets added)

The botanical metaphor in [Brookings Institution Senior Fellow Robert] Kagan’s book title began our recent conversation. “We’ve been living in a tranquil garden of largely peaceful practices and liberal expectations across much of the world, ignoring the dark forces of jungle multiplying under the rocks. If we don’t defend civilization’s cultivation—especially American’s guarantee of peace and economic integration across the world—the toxic creatures and weeds will roar back.” Thus China’s determined military rise, Russia’s continuing aggressions, fiery authoritarians on the march in so many once democratic countries. As [Brookings Institution Senior Fellow Robert] Kagan continued, “Trump has been damaging the system—he too seems to have forgotten what good it has delivered—but actually America’s desire for maintaining the global order has been diminishing for years. After the dissolution of the Soviet empire in the 1990s, people talked about ‘the end of history”—that America didn’t have to worry anymore about war or aggression. History doesn’t end, it simply paused. The ugliest aspects of human nature are surging again.”
**Vanishing Leadership, Vanishing Peace**
Kagan’s apocalyptic message, repeated in other recent writings, is lucid and terrifying, all the more devastating for its relentless use of history. It’s a footnoted plea that “we’ve seen this movie before.” He reminds us that Americans have frequently turned away from defending world order, with regrettably familiar outcomes: to be dragged in later at greater cost (e.g. helping to stop Hitler earlier might have prevented World War II); or, simply hoping that “the problem would go away,” to watch it get ten times worse (e.g. Obama’s policy in Syria). Kagan acknowledges that America has sometimes misstepped (e.g. Viet Nam, Iraq), but he still argues that overall our foreign engagement has produced more peace and prosperity than not. “History shows,” he summarized, “that world order has never been achieved without some constructive force to keep the peace. The relative harmony and fair play we’ve created in the modern world will vanish if the U.S. forsakes international leadership.”

4. Terrorist insurgency

Two large insurgencies ongoing in the Philippines today: Communists in the rural areas and Islamists in the south

Anton Alifandi 2021 (**Associate Director, Country Risk, S&P Global Market Intelligence**) 9 Mar 2021 "Terrorism in the Philippines: Examining the data and what to expect in the coming years" (accessed 23 Jan 2023) https://www.spglobal.com/marketintelligence/en/mi/research-analysis/terrorism-philippines-examining-data.html

The communist insurgency in the Philippines has been ongoing since 1969 and shows no sign of abating. On the contrary, recent statements by the exiled founder and chairman of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), Jose Maria Sison, suggests that the party's armed wing, the New People's Army (NPA), will seek to expand its attacks to major cities from rural areas where the rebels operate. In the south of the country, the Moro-Islamist insurgency continues despite the establishment of an autonomous region in the Muslim-majority parts of Mindanao in 2019, and the heavy losses suffered by Islamist militant groups that had pledged loyalty to the Islamic State (IS) during and immediately after the five-month siege of Marawi City in 2017.

Link: Philippine armed forces need U.S. military assistance to fight terrorism

Joshua Kurlantzick 2017 (senior fellow for Southeast Asia at the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR); previously a visiting scholar at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Previously was a fellow at the Univ of Southern California Center on Public Diplomacy and a fellow at the Pacific Council on International Policy) 13 Nov 2017 “Trump's Visit to the Philippines: A Budding Bromance but Few Positive Outcomes” (accessed 23 Jan 2023) https://www.cfr.org/blog/trumps-visit-philippines-budding-bromance-few-positive-outcomes-0

Duterte definitely is increasingly realizing that he needs U.S. assistance in counterterrorism, piracy, and other issues related to the Islamic State than he had imagined a year ago. Since the battle in Mindanao this past year, the Philippine armed forces are exhausted, and unprepared for another breakout of major conflict in the south. Duterte has lined up new counterterrorism assistance commitments from Singapore and Australia, but these countries’ counterterrorism assistance cannot match the levels of potential aid from Washington.

Advocacy: We need to build Philippine forces' capacity

Gregory Poling and Eric Sayers 2018 (Poling is director of the Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative and a fellow with the Southeast Asia Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington. Sayers is an Adjunct Senior Fellow at the Center for a New American Security. He previously worked as a Professional Staff Member on the Senate Armed Services Committee and as a Special Assistant to the Commander at U.S. Indo-Pacific Command.) 21 January 2019 “TIME TO MAKE GOOD ON THE U.S.-PHILIPPINE ALLIANCE” (accessed 23 Jan 2023) https://warontherocks.com/2019/01/time-to-make-good-on-the-u-s-philippine-alliance/

And third, the U.S. government should take the opportunity to inform Manila of an enhanced security assistance package to help build the capacity of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and propose talks to formulate new guidelines for Philippine-U.S. defense cooperation modeled to better operationalize the alliance, much as the 2015 revised guidelines have done for the U.S.-Japan alliance.

Impact: Terrorist kidnappings and trade losses

Professor Sheena Chestnut Greitens 2017 (nonresident senior fellow with the Center for East Asia Policy Studies; assistant professor of political science at the University of Missouri, and an associate in research at the Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies at Harvard University.) 15 August 2017 “Terrorism in the Philippines and U.S.-Philippine security cooperation” (accessed 23 Jan 2023) https://www.brookings.edu/opinions/terrorism-in-the-philippines-and-u-s-philippine-security-cooperation/

At the same time, concerns about kidnapping-for-ransom operations by the terrorist group Abu Sayyaf in the waters around the southern Philippines have also heightened. Western hostages have been executed when ransom demands were not met, while payments made for other hostages raise concern that these operations help bankroll ISIS-linked militants. The Philippine press reported last fall that Abu Sayyaf, which has pledged allegiance to ISIS, had raised at least $7 million in 2016 from its kidnapping operations. As a result of concerns about security in these waters and the safety of trade between the two countries, Indonesia temporarily suspended shipping and banned coal exports to the Philippines (70 percent of the country’s supply). These kidnapping-for-ransom operations, therefore, are not only a maritime security and law enforcement issue, but a matter for counterterrorism and trade throughout the region.

Impact: Militants harm the Philippines’ economy

Dr. Joseph Felter 2017 (Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for South and Southeast Asia; former research fellow at the Hoover Institution and a senior research scholar at the Center for International Security and Cooperation at Stanford University.) 27 September 2017 “ISIS In The Philippines: A Threat To US Interests” (accessed 23 Jan 2023) https://www.hoover.org/research/isis-philippines-threat-us-interests

But the threat to US interests posed by these militant groups extends well beyond terrorism. The Philippines is an important treaty ally, and the US partners with her to pursue a range of mutual strategic interests in the region. Militant groups like ISIS are exacting a huge toll on the Philippines’ military capabilities and costs to its economy – capabilities and resources that could be directed towards providing external security and protecting its sovereignty.

5. Defeats the greater good and promotes tyranny

Exporting arms to a bad government still produces a greater good. Examples: Soviet Union in World War 2 and South Korea during the Korean War

Dr. Ted Bromund 2021. (PhD in history from Yale; holds two master’s degrees in history from Yale and a bachelor of arts degree from Iowa’s Grinnell College ) The Biden Administration’s Conventional Arms Transfer Policy Should Not Be Handcuffed by the Arms Trade Treaty 1 Nov 2021 (accessed 4 Oct 2022) https://www.heritage.org/global-politics/report/the-biden-administrations-conventional-arms-transfer-policy-should-not-be (brackets added)

If the ATT [Arms Trade Treaty] had existed in 1942, the U.S. could not have extended Lend-Lease aid to Stalin, who used the trucks the U.S. provided to deport almost 100,000 people from the nation of Georgia to Siberia. But aiding Stalin against Hitler was nonetheless the correct policy. If the ATT had existed in 1950, the U.S. could not have aided South Korea, which was a brutal military dictatorship, when it was attacked by the North. But aiding South Korea against North Korea was the correct, and, in fact, the humane, policy to follow.

We couldn't use arms exports to fight against tyranny if we strictly apply human rights standards

Dr. Ted Bromund 2021. (PhD in history from Yale; holds two master’s degrees in history from Yale and a bachelor of arts degree from Iowa’s Grinnell College ) The Biden Administration’s Conventional Arms Transfer Policy Should Not Be Handcuffed by the Arms Trade Treaty 1 Nov 2021 (accessed 4 Oct 2022) https://www.heritage.org/global-politics/report/the-biden-administrations-conventional-arms-transfer-policy-should-not-be (brackets added)

If the U.S. bound itself to respect foreign import controls by treaty, it would be legally dubious for the U.S. to arm anyone resisting a tyranny. For example, the treaty would make it legally very difficult for the U.S. to arm, as Obama did, the opponents of the Assad regime in Syria.  In fact, opponents of Obama’s policy argued that he was likely violating the ATT [Arms Trade Treaty].  Every U.S. President since Harry Truman has armed resistance fighters. The ATT would thus raise serious barriers to U.S. foreign policy as it has been carried out, on a bipartisan basis, since the start of the Cold War. It would also, in practice, put the U.S. on the side of dictators and their human rights violations.