

“美中关系：中东问题上的合作与对抗”

By Jon B. Alterman

摘要

中国，美国与中东形成了三角鼎立。三方均看重地区安全与能源安全，各方都需要与其他两方保持强劲的关系。中国在中东事务上的参与让美国的一些人担心中国可能成为美国在中东地区的对手。中美更紧密的合作能使得三角鼎立成为安全的保障，而不是紧张关系的来源。

伊朗是一大担忧。保证中国不会阻挠国际社会的集体行动对构建美中关系的信心十分重要。双边的合作还可以拓展到新领域。在最近的动荡之后，阿拉伯国家寻求稳定，中国的投资可以刺激低迷的经济，并给劳动力大军注入活力。中国还可以传输自身经济增长的经验教训，这很有可能受到中东地区政府的欢迎。

在共建更强劲的安全纽带上，两国海军的合作是前景光明的起始之处。绝大部分美国海军同中国的交流是通过太平洋舰队，但是中国的舰船越来越多地在美国海军活动的其他水域航行，比如中央司令部管辖海域。更多的交流和更清楚地了解双方海军的礼仪往来有助于建立互信。两国均在海事安全与反海盗上有承诺。中国海军与 151 联合部队更紧密地协调，以及与索马里海岸其他多边海军力量的协调，可以加深中国在多边安全行动中的参与，并促进中美关系。

随着中国的舰队在非洲之角展开打击海盗的行动，两国海军还可以安排“交汇训练”。这些训练有助于增进沟通与建立互信，并且有助于帮助中国为将来更多的类似行动做准备，正如中国最近成功地从利比亚撤离了 30,000 余名中国工人。有关后果管理演习的讨论能够找出其他的合作领域。比如，两国海军可以建立合作与沟通的模式以拦截海上非法货运。中国高层官员出席主要海事会议，例如国际海上力量论坛，将有助于加强两国海军双边关系。

随着时间的推移，这些努力将有助于美国与中国在中东观点上的看齐。如果没有这些努力，美国有可能认为中国只从美国在中东安全保证中获益而不作出贡献，或者甚至认为中国从中破坏。这个结局对双边关系不利，特别是对中国不利。更紧密的双边合作能通过“关键三方”促进安全。

“U.S.-China Relations: Cooperating and Contending Over the Middle East”

By Jon B. Alterman

Executive Summary

China, the United States, and the Middle East form a triangle. All three value regional stability and energy security, and each needs strong relations with the other two. Chinese engagement in the Middle East makes some in the United States worry that China could become its rival in the Middle East. Closer Sino-American cooperation can turn the triangle into a source of security rather than tension.

Iran is a chief concern. Ensuring that China does not block international collective action is important to build confidence in Sino-American relations. Bilateral cooperation could also venture into new areas. As Arab states seek stability after recent revolts, Chinese investment could boost stagnant economies and workforces. China could transmit lessons from its own economic growth, which regional governments would likely welcome.

In building stronger security ties, naval cooperation is a promising place to start. Most U.S. Navy communication with China is through the Pacific Fleet, but Chinese ships increasingly travel into other areas of U.S. naval activity, such as Central Command. Greater communication and a clearer sense of each other's naval protocols could help build confidence. Both countries are already committed to maritime security and counter-piracy. Closer coordination between China's navy and Task Force 151, as well as other multilateral naval task forces off the coast of Somalia, could deepen existing Chinese participation in multilateral security efforts and boost the Sino-American relationship.

Even more ambitiously, the two navies could arrange a “passing exercise” (pass-ex) as Chinese ships transit to counter-piracy operations near the Horn of Africa. Such exercises would help build communications and mutual confidence. Such an exercise could also help China prepare for more operations like its recent successful evacuation of over 30,000 Chinese workers from Libya. Discussions about consequence management exercises could identify additional areas of cooperation. For example, the two navies could build cooperation and communication patterns to intercept illicit cargo at sea. Senior Chinese attendance at major maritime meetings, such as the International Sea Power Symposium, could also help deepen bilateral naval ties.

In time, these efforts could help align U.S. and Chinese views of the Middle East. Without such efforts, the United States may start seeing China as benefitting from U.S. security guarantees in the Middle East without contributing to them—or even while undermining them. This outcome would be bad for bilateral relations and especially bad for China. Closer bilateral cooperation, however, would enhance security throughout the “Vital Triangle.”