

Quadrilateral Security Dialogue" involving four countries - the US, Japan, India and Australia

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When NATO was established in Europe in 1949, 12 countries joined and nothing was

mentioned in the legal documents about the Soviet Union. The socialist countries of Eastern Europe then quickly became the main rival of NATO. Currently NATO has 30 members and the bloc's border are directly on Russia's. Even with the collapse of the Soviet Union, NATO still orchestrated and headed the breakup of Yugoslavia and then the downfall of long time Libyan ruler Muammar Gaddafi.

The question then becomes whether Indo-Pacific people want such a similar organization in their region that can very easily bring war and destruction.

The US, which currently has a fierce conflict with China, certainly wants to strengthen its strategic positioning by creating a coalition of states wanting to resist China's rise. Therefore, the US Department of Defense hopes that some Southeast Asian countries, mainly those that have territorial disputes with China, like Vietnam and the Philippines, will join the QUAD, contributing financially and materially to the overall military structure. And then, as is the case in Europe, "Asian NATO" could become a tool to enact American interests in the region.

As was the case with NATO in Europe, the national armies of coalition members had to buy weapons made by the US. Therefore, the US military industrial complex will strongly support the idea of establishing an "Asian NATO." This would present vast opportunities to the American military industry as countries that previously bought Russian weapons, like India, will have to completely refurbish. But in terms of priority, of course, is the desire to curb a growing China, meaning that the refurbishment of weapons will become secondary.

It is unlikely that the QUAD will be successful in converting into an "Asian NATO" against China as such a bloc would need greater support than just Australia, India and Japan. Without the support of massive Southeast Asian countries like Indonesia and Thailand, the "Asian NATO" will not be able to contain the rise of China. Such an alliance would be heavily dependent on India to match China's manpower and capabilities, but they fall short as China has already begun to infrastructurally develop and become a mainstay of the economies of India's neighbors, most notably Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, thereby themselves containing India. Without the help of Southeast Asia, the QUAD cannot oppose China despite Washington's hopes.

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