

Dreaming Afrasia: Afro-Asian Relationship in the 21st Century

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□ Abstract

According to the UN Population Division, the breakdown of the world population in 2100 is projected to be 4.9 billion Asians, 4.4 billion Africans and 1.9 billion people in the rest of the world (roughly speaking, the ratio will be 4:4:1). Thus, promoting a visionary dialogue between the two major regions, Asia and Africa, will be essential in deciding the future shape of the global citizenry. The rise of Asian Tigers and mainland China has occasioned a significant shift in the understanding of today's international relations, and some scholars even envision a non-Western IR theory. However, such a counter-hegemonic conception is not completely new in history but additional to the liberatory discourse of major Asian and African intellectuals in the 20th century, such as Rabindranath Tagore, Okakura Tenshin, Sun Yat-sen, Aimé Césaire, Julius Nyerere and Steve Biko. The paper asks several critical questions. What is the lesson of the past colonialism to contemporary Afrasia? Will the development paths of Africa and Asia converge or diverge? How can Europe engage in the Afrasian dialogue that is gradually taking shape?

□ About the Speaker

Yoichi Mine is Professor at Dôshisha University and Visiting Fellow at JICA Research Institute. His major research fields are human security, human development, transnational migration and African area study. His works in English include: « Preventing Violent Conflict in Africa: Inequalities, Perceptions and Institutions (Palgrave, 2013) » co-edited with Frances Stewart (Oxford University), Sakiko Fukuda-Parr (The New School), and Thandika Mkandawire (LSE).



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