

Rethinking Regional Cooperation in an Era of De-globalization

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For more than half a century, the US has been the greatest supplier of public goods in the current global economic system. However, the distinct economic nationalism of President Trump's policy agenda has halted such trend. Regardless of the rising protectionism, and prevailing anti-globalization sentiments, economic cooperation in East Asia have remained steadfast and continued to grow apace relative to the rest of the world.

Why both industrial countries (e.g. Japan) and emerging market countries (e.g. China) in East Asia are still enthusiastic about regional cooperation? And what implications it may have on future regional institutional design? By examining the specific reasons for each country, it is argued that domestic institutional design to protect the losers from the globalization is vital for sustainable economic openness.

The Integration of the regional cooperation is on the way. It is argued that any new type of regional economic cooperation framework should take its domestic impact into consideration. It should not only focus on "on the border issues" to facilitate the intra-regional trade, but also pay attention to "behind the border issues" to boost service industry, which is vital for job creation, and make good balance between FPI and BPI as well. (198 words)