

Bipolarity structure and the political development in the East and Southeast Asian Region

ABSTRACT

This paper discusses the structural changes from multi-polarity structure during the period before the end of World War II to bipolarity structure after the end Second World War. The bipolarity that was began in Europe in late 1940s (the creation of the communist states in Eastern Europe) spread to the North East and South East Asian region. The creation of bipolarity structure in the international level, was strongly influenced the regional political development in North East and South East Asia. The formation of two Chinas; The People's Republic of China (China Communist) in October 1949 under President Mao Tse-tung, the pro-American Republic of China (Taiwan) under President Chiang Kai-shek, the formation of North Vietnam (Communist-Socialist) and South Vietnam (democratic-capitalist), Two Koreas; North and South Korea are among the result of the political development of bipolarity structure in the East and South East Asia. The strong influence of Soviet Union and China in the new communist states in the East and Southeast Asia affects the American strategy in facing new political development based on bipolarity structure (two poles of power). The cooperation and conflict in the East and South East Asia after 1945 were strong influence and related to the changes in international political structure from multi-polarity to bipolarity structure (Soviet Union and the United States of America). It is concluded that the decision of small states in the North East and South East Asian region was not free from the international power configuration and structural changes after Second World War.